NOW PLAYING AT A THEATER NEAR YOU

MARVEL® GRAPHIC NOVEL

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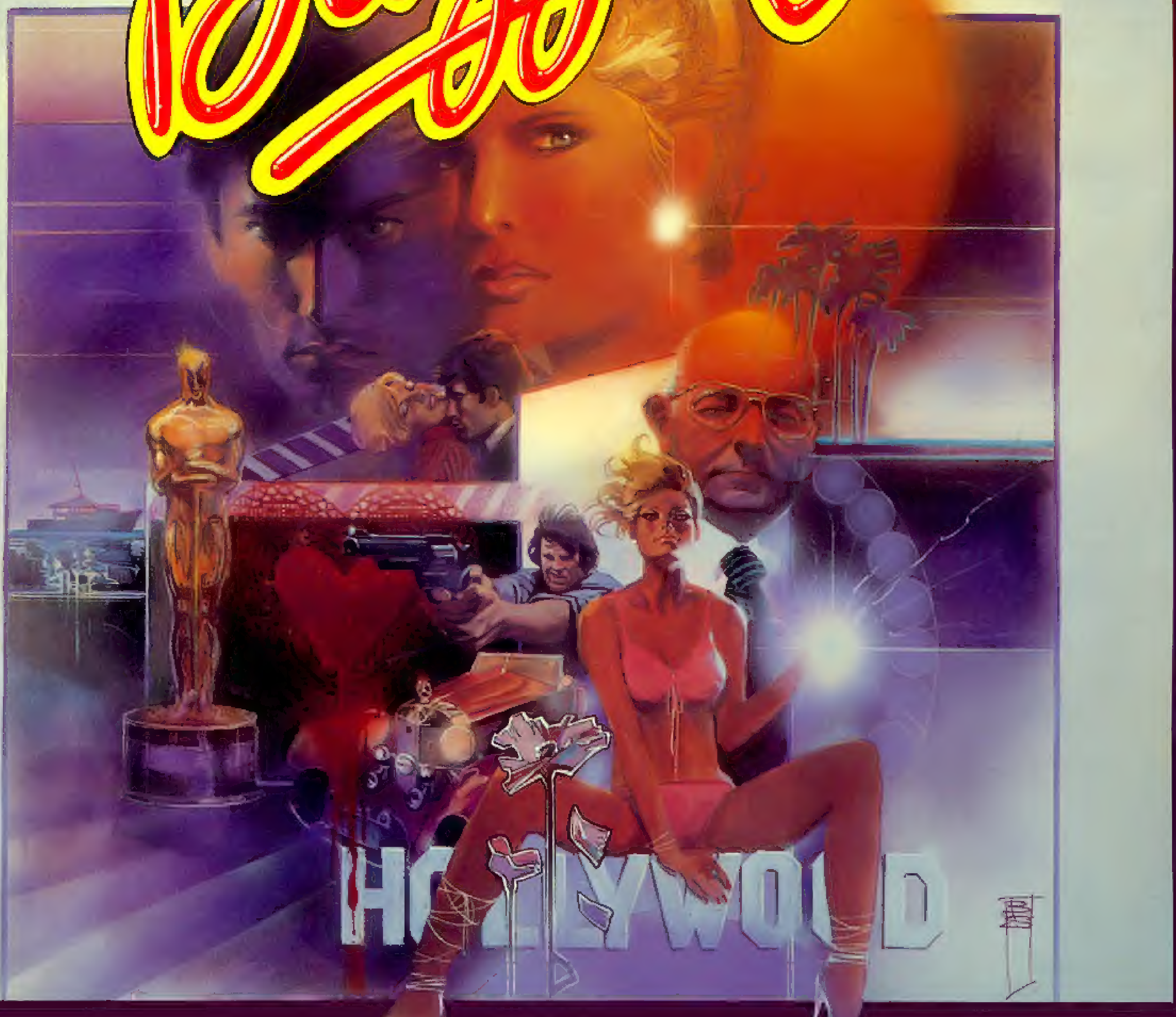
Dazzler® THE MOVIE



MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. PRESENTS A STAN LEE PRODUCTION DAZZLER THE MOVIE

SCREENPLAY BY JAMES SHOOTER DIRECTED BY FRANK SPRINGER AND VINCE COLLETTA PRODUCER ROMAN NEKOBAH

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TOM DeFALCO A MARVEL PICTURE Color by SCHEELE FILMED IN SOUND AROUND

NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED Original Soundtrack not available on Placebo Compact Discs and Records.

A MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL

"Alison, it is you I am worried about! There is a wave of anti-mutant sentiment sweeping the country. I know that you flaunt your mutant ability in public.

"I fear for you."

Dazzler THE MOVIE

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plot & script

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pencils

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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
WILL AFFECT EVERY
LIVING MUTANT
. . . FOREVER.

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AT THE PRESTIGIOUS LOS ANGELES HEALTH AND RACQUET CLUB, **ALISON BLAIRE** CONDUCTS THE AFTERNOON DANCE-EXERCISE CLASS...

POINT THOSE TOES!

ONE-AND-TWO-AND-ONE-AND-TWO...

THAT GIRL IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THIS CLUB! WHAT A FANTASTIC DANCE-EXERCISE TEACHER!

HER CLASSES ARE ALWAYS PACKED!

SHE'S SO GRACEFUL--! AND BEAUTIFUL!

STRETCH-AND-TWO-AND-THREE-AND-FOUR! KEEP THAT LEG STRAIGHT!

LOOK, MARGE--! I'D ALMOST SWEAR SHE WAS *GLOWING!*

VERNE

UH-OH! GOOD THING I HEARD THAT!

I *AM* GLOWING--! BETTER COOL IT-- *FAST!*

DARN! I'D BETTER BE MORE CAREFUL OF THAT!

IT'S SO EASY TO SLIP! GLOWING IS AS NATURAL TO ME AS WALKING OR BREATHING IS TO NORMAL HUMANS!

OH, WELL... ONLY A COUPLE OF PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE NOTICED! THEY'LL PROBABLY THINK IT WAS A TRICK OF THE LIGHT OR SOMETHING!

OKAY, EVERYBODY, ON THE FLOOR!

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS INVENTING EXPLANATIONS FOR THINGS THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT'S EASIER TO BELIEVE YOUR EYES ARE PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU THAN IN A GIRL WHO CAN GLOW LIKE A FIREFLY!

KEEP GOING! TWIST AND STRETCH!

SOMETIMES EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

OKAY, BACK *UP!* STAY WITH THE MUSIC!

NOW TOUCH THOSE TOES! ONE-AND-TWO-AND...!

EVERY WOMAN HERE WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO LOOK LIKE HER...

AND EVERY MAN WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO BE *WITH* HER!

IF YOU'D SAID THAT ABOUT ANYONE ELSE, MEL, YOU'D BE SLEEPING ON THE COUCH TONIGHT! BUT... I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I UNDERSTAND... SORT OF...

... ONE-AND-TWO-AND...

PLEASE, GOD, LET IT BE OVER OR JUST LET ME DIE!

YEAH, WE SURRENDER ALREADY!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE USED UP TWELVE BILLION CALORIES! I'LL BE THRILLED WHEN I WEIGH MYSELF... BUT *NOW*--? OHHH!!

OKAY! THAT'S *IT!* VERY GOOD! YOU WERE ALL FANTASTIC!

LOOK AT HER! SHE'S FRESH AS A DAISY-- AND WE'RE *TOTALLED!*

LIFE ISN'T FAIR!!

I'LL FEEL GREAT TOMORROW... I'LL FEEL GREAT TOMORROW...

I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN ON THURSDAY! TAKE CARE EVERYBODY!

SHE ISN'T EVEN BREATHING HARD! SHE HARDLY BROKE A SWEAT! SHE CAN'T BE HUMAN!

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET! KNOW WHAT SHE DOES AFTER THESE CLASSES? SHE LIFTS *WEIGHTS!*

I CAN HARDLY LIFT MY *OWN* WEIGHT!

THIS IS MY FIRST CLASS, ALI! I'M IMPRESSED--! YOU'RE *INCREDIBLY* SEXY!

WELL, THANK YOU! I HOPE YOU LIKED THE CLASS, TOO, MR...

I'M *ERIC BEALE!* I OWN BEALE PRODUCTIONS!

A GIRL WHO LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD REALLY GO FAR WITH A "*FRIEND*" LIKE ME BEHIND HER! NOW, I WANT YOU TO GO CHANGE AND MEET ME IN THE LOBBY IN TEN.

OH, I'M SORRY, REALLY! BUT I CAN'T!

NONSENSE! MY LIMO'S WAITING OUTSIDE!

THANKS ANYWAY, MR. BEALE, BUT REALLY, I CAN'T! IT-IT'S AGAINST CLUB RULES FOR EMPLOYEES TO SOCIALIZE WITH MEMBERS! SEE YOU NEXT CLASS, OKAY?

MOMENTS LATER...

WHAT A PUSHY GUY! I THINK HE'S USED TO GETTING WHAT HE WANTS AND RIGHT NOW!

I HOPE I WASN'T *TOO* COLD TO HIM! I DON'T LIKE HURTING *ANYBODY'S* FEELINGS-- EVEN SOMEONE LIKE HIM!

WOW! THAT'S A HUNDRED AND TWENTY POUNDS! YOU LIFT MORE THAN MOST OF THE MEN! TWICE AS MUCH AS ME!

I BET YOU'RE AS STRONG AS LISA LYONS, THE BODYBUILDER!

OH, I DON'T KNOW, BUT I AM IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE!

I WORKED MY WAY UP SLOWLY-- IT TAKES A LONG TIME! MY NAME'S ALI, BY THE WAY! WHAT'S YOURS?

FREDDY!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, FREDDY!

REALLY? I JOINED THIS CLUB TO MEET PEOPLE... BUT I HAVEN'T DONE TOO WELL SO FAR!

I DON'T MAKE FRIENDS VERY EASILY...

A LOT OF MEN ARE SHY, FREDDY! DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET OVER IT!

I KNOW, FREDDY, BUT I TRY TO FOCUS ON PEOPLE'S GOOD POINTS, YOU KNOW?

I--I'VE TRIED TALKING TO A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO ANSWERED! THERE ARE A LOT OF SNOBS AROUND THIS PLACE! IF YOU AREN'T AS RICH OR IMPORTANT AS *THEY* ARE, *FORGET* IT!

ALI, UM... C-COULD I MAYBE TREAT YOU TO A CARROT JUICE AT THE HEALTH BAR UPSTAIRS, AND MAYBE, YOU KNOW, JUST TALK SOME MORE?

NO! *NO!* FORGET I SAID THAT! OF COURSE YOU'RE *BUSY!* I HOPE I DIDN'T SPOIL EVERYTHING!

IT'S JUST, I'M ENJOYING TALKING TO YOU SO MUCH-- *HEY!*

ALI, I HAVE SOME NEWS FOR YOU! GO AHEAD, WITWICKY, TELL HER!

UH, MISS BLAIRE, MR. BEALE HERE JUST *BOUGHT* THE CLUB!

HE... *DID*?!

RIGHT! NOW *I* MAKE THE RULES! SO IF YOU'LL JOIN ME FOR DINNER TONIGHT, ALI, WE CAN DISCUSS YOUR *PROMOTION!* YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER HERE!

WHAT? MR. BEALE, I...

ALSO, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU SING A LITTLE! I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO THE "*RIGHT*" PEOPLE... AND *HELP* YOU ALONG!

SO PUT THAT THING DOWN, AND GET DRESSED! I'M A BUSY MAN!

I BET! BUT, MR. BEALE--

--I'M AFRAID I CAN'T MAKE IT! FREDDY HAS ALREADY ASKED ME OUT FOR A CARROT JUICE...

SO IF YOU'D PLEASE HOLD THIS...

WHAT--?

YEAHHH!!

OOPS! I GUESS HE WASN'T READY FOR IT! OH WELL, COME ON FRED!

O-OKAY!

MR. BEALE, SIR, I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! I'LL FIRE HER, OF COURSE!

FASCINATING... SIMPLY FASCINATING...

MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE...

I GUESS YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, NOW! I'M SORRY IF IT WAS MY FAULT!

IT WASN'T! THANKS FOR OFFERING ME A LIFT HOME!

Nicki Fairest AEROBICS

SOON...

...BUT THERE *ARE* LOTS OF NICE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, FREDDY! DON'T GIVE UP!

I GUESS IT'S ME, THEN! I'M JUST... A NERD!

WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A LOW OPINION OF YOURSELF, FRED? I THINK YOU'RE VERY NICE... AND BETTER THAN TEN ERIC BEALES! ANY WOMAN COULD SEE THAT!

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO? HONEST?

BUT, ALI, HE OFFERED YOU ANYTHING--*EVERY-THING!* ALL YOUR DREAMS!

I WANT TO BE A STAR--MORE THAN ANYTHING! BUT I WANT TO MAKE IT BECAUSE I *DESERVE* TO!

THEN, MAYBE SOMEDAY, ONCE I'VE FULFILLED MY DREAMS, I'LL FIND SOMEONE... A GOOD MAN... SOMEONE SPECIAL TO SETTLE DOWN WITH! *NOT* AN ERIC BEALE!

I--I HOPE IT ALL WORKS OUT FOR YOU, ALI! I KNOW IT WILL!

THANKS, FRED! I'M SURE THINGS WILL WORK OUT FOR YOU, TOO!

YOU KNOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I ALMOST BELIEVE THAT! IN FACT, I FEEL LIKE A MILLION--THANKS TO YOU! YOU'RE AMAZING, ALI!

BELIEVING IN YOURSELF IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD ANYTHING! YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR AND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE PERSON LOOKING BACK!

MINUTES LATER...

THERE IT IS...THE HOUSE WITH THE OUTSIDE STAIRCASE!

OKAY...

THANKS AGAIN, FRED, FOR...

NO! THANK *YOU*, ALI... FOR MAKING ME FEEL LIKE I'M *WORTH* SOMETHING! I'M GOING TO START BELIEVING IN MYSELF--LIKE YOU SAID!

WELL, IT THAT CASE, LET ME BE THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE THE NEW FRED--A VERY NICE, CHARMING, HANDSOME... AND *CONFIDENT* MAN!

OH, WOW...

I GUESS I'LL BE SEEING YOUR NAME UP IN LIGHTS SOON!

SURE... OH, AND BY THE WAY--

--YOU'RE A *GREAT* KISSER! SEEYA!

I AM?

I MEAN... I AM!!

VROOM!!

WOW...

...OH I BELIEVE IN YOU... FRED STANACHEK! I BELIEVE IN YOU!

MEANWHILE...

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE...

...AND BOY, IS IT *HUMBLE!*

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

CLICK!

AHHH! IT FEELS GOOD TO CUT *LOOSE!*

ALL DAY EVERY LITTLE SOUND SENDS A TINGLING WAVE OF *ENERGY* SURGING THROUGH ME! IT'S MURDER KEEPING IT BOTTLED UP INSIDE ME TILL IT FADES--INSTEAD OF TURNING IT INTO LIGHT AND LETTING IT *SHINE!*

I WONDER WHAT SOUND *FEELS* LIKE TO NORMAL PEOPLE? CAN THEY FEEL IT SOAKING THROUGH THEIR FLESH AND INTO THEIR BONES AND SWIRLING AROUND INSIDE? OR DO THEY REALLY JUST *HEAR* IT?

MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT IF SOME LITTLE SWITCH WERE THROWN INSIDE THEIR BRAINS, *THEN* EVERYBODY COULD FEEL THE ENERGY LIKE I DO, AND GATHER IT UP, AND SHAPE IT--

--AND LET IT GO AGAIN AS LIGHT!

ESPECIALLY MUSIC--! GOD, I LOVE MUSIC! HARMONIES... RHYTHM! CASCADES OF SYNCHRONIZED LAYERS OF ENERGY!

IF OTHER PEOPLE REALLY CAN'T FEEL SOUNDS THE WAY I DO, I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM!

I GUESS IT MUST BE AT LEAST A *LITTLE* DIFFERENT FOR NORMAL HUMANS! I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A KID I USED TO GET BLANK STARES FROM EVERYBODY WHEN I TALKED ABOUT MUSIC!

--AS IF I WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING *TOTALLY* STRANGE TO THEM! THEY THOUGHT I WAS WEIRD...

...AND SO DID I! ESPECIALLY WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN AND FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!

OTHER GIRLS JUST HAD TO WORRY ABOUT PIMPLES -- I HAD TO WORRY ABOUT GOING OFF LIKE A FLASH BULB AT PEP RALLIES! BOY!

THEN I WOULD'VE GIVEN ANYTHING TO BE NORMAL! NOW, I'M *GLAD* I'M ME! I WOULDN'T TRADE WITH ANYBODY!

HELLO, THERE! MY WE'RE LOOKING ALL AGLOW TODAY!

AND WOULD WE CARE FOR A NICE HOT BATH, NOW? WHY, YES, I BELIEVE WE WOULD!

SHORTLY...

I WONDER IF OTHER BUDDING STARLETS EAT COLD SPAGHETTI AND ASPARAGUS RIGHT OUT OF THE CAN? YUM-*MY!*

HMM...

NOW ISN'T THIS INTERESTING... A WHOLE BARRAGE OF ARTICLES ON *MUTANTS!*

"MUTANTS: #1 WORLD MENACE"! COME *ON!* WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE?! WHY ARE THEY SO AFRAID OF US JUST BECAUSE WE CAN DO THINGS THEY CAN'T?

PRESIDEN
MANDS
TI-MUTA

MUTANTS: #1 WORLD MENACE' SAY SPECIA ADVISORS TO REAGAN

WASHINGTON

GEEZ, BEING A MUTANT IS JUST LIKE-- LIKE HAVING A SPECIAL TALENT! DO I GET UPSET BECAUSE I CAN'T WRITE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES?

HAS THE WORLD GONE PARANOID? HECK, I HAVEN'T EATEN ANY CHILDREN SINCE THE OVEN BROKE!

RINGG!

NOW WHO COULD THAT BE? THE MONSTERS' GUILD OFFERING ME A MEMBERSHIP?

HELLO?

ORORO! HI! HOW ARE YOU?

I AM WELL, ALISON, AS ARE ALL THE X-MEN! IT IS YOU I AM WORRIED ABOUT!

THERE IS A WAVE OF ANTI-MUTANT SENTIMENT SWEEPING THIS COUNTRY! I KNOW THAT YOU FLAUNT YOUR MUTANT ABILITY IN PUBLIC! I FEAR FOR YOU!

THANKS, ORORO, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! WHEN I DO MY LIGHT TRICKS ON STAGE, PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE PRESUME IT'S JUST A STAGE GIMMICK! THEY'RE USED TO SEEING LIGHT SHOWS WITH SINGING ACTS!

NONETHELESS, BE CAREFUL ALISON! TIMES ARE NOT GOOD FOR OUR KIND! YOU WOULD BE SAFER HERE IN WESTCHESTER WITH US IN OUR SECRET STRONGHOLD! CONSIDER IT... PLEASE! I WISH YOU WELL... GOOD-BYE.

DO YOU THINK SHE'LL LISTEN TO YOU, *STORM*?

I DOUBT IT, *NIGHTCRAWLER!* SHE IS A WILLFUL YOUNG WOMAN, DRIVEN HARD BY HER DREAMS!

SUCH PEOPLE CAN SELDOM BE CONVINCED OF THE WISDOM OF CAUTION!

YES, BUT MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT! MAY-BE THERE'S NO REASON TO WORRY!

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY-- AT LEAST A MUTANT LIKE HER ISN'T QUITE AS OBVIOUS AS I AM!

AND IT'S NOT AS THOUGH SHE WERE OUT THERE MAKING LITTLE RAIN-CLOUDS TO WATER HER PLANTS, LIKE YOU!

TRUE... BUT IF SHE CONTINUES PUBLICLY DISPLAYING HER POWER LONG ENOUGH, SOONER OR LATER *SOMEONE* WILL SUSPECT!

MEANWHILE...

WHY DID STORM HAVE TO GET ME ALL UPSET OVER THAT ANTI-MUTANT NONSENSE TONIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS?

I'M ALREADY NERVOUS ENOUGH OVER THE GIG I HAVE TONIGHT!

IT'S ONLY A LOUNGE JOB, BUT, HEY, IT'S IN HOLLYWOOD! MAYBE THERE'LL BE SOME BIG PRODUCERS IN THE AUDIENCE!

LET'S SEE--A LITTLE SIMULATED STAGE LIGHTING...

I LOOK PRETTY GOOD!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY, MISS ALISON BLAIRE! THE DAZZLER'S FIRST PERFORM-ANCE IN L.A. IS GOING TO GO WELL! FOR SURE!

I *BELIEVE* IN YOU!

MEANWHILE, IN BEVERLY HILLS....

MAN KOBOH

ROMAN NEKOBOH

ROMAN NEKOBOH

RAP! RAP! RAP!

SIR? MR. NEKOBOH, SIR? IT'S SEVEN P.M.! TIME TO WAKE UP!

GOODNESS! SEVEN P.M.! I GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STAY UP AS LATE AS WE DID, ROMAN!

I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, ROMIE, SWEETIE! I HOPE YOU'LL CALL ME AGAIN SOMETIME!

GZZZNKSLZZLE!

I HAVE TO GO NOW, LOVER, OKAY?

MINUTES LATER...

THANK YOU, AND GOOD EVENING!

GOOD EVENING TO YOU, MISS.

ZIGGY... IT'S THE CRACK OF DUSK!

I KNOW, SIR! BUT, YOU INSTRUCTED ME TO MAKE VERY SURE YOU WERE AWAKENED!

ZIGGY... I'M FEELING A LITTLE...

I KNOW, SIR! I'LL TRY TO KEEP THE PLOP PLOP FIZZ FIZZ MUTED!

YEAH... MY HEAD FEELS LIKE THE GOODRICH BLIMP!

GOODYEAR, SIR!

I TRUST YOU HAD AN ENJOYABLE NIGHT, SIR?

YEAH, TO YOU TOO, ZIG! LORD WHAT A HANGOVER!

HUH? OH, YEAH... WHATSERNAME THERE IS A FUN KID!

GEE, ZIG, I THINK I'M GETTING A LITTLE OUT OF SHAPE! DO SOME CALISTHENICS FOR ME WILLYA?

YES, SIR!

YOU'D BETTER HURRY AND GET DRESSED, SIR! THE GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY!

AH! OKAY, ZIG!

♫ IF I CAN MA-A-AKE IT THERE, I'LL MAKE IT AN-N-NYWHERE... ♫

THIS IS GOING TO BE AN INTERESTING DAY, ZIGGY!

YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON! WELL, I'LL TELL YOU!

THERE'S A *GIRL* I MET RECENTLY -- ALISON SOMETHING OR OTHER--! THE BEST LOOKING DAME EVER! YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THIS WOMAN, ZIG! HER EYES, HER HAIR, HER LEGS, HER TICKETS... WHAT A WOMAN!

SHE GOES BY THE NAME "DAZZLER"! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? *SHEESH!*

ANYWAY, ZIG, I SPENT PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE DAY WITH HER AND DIDN'T GET ANY ACTION! SHE TURNED ME DOWN! CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S EVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

NEEDLESS TO SAY I'M GOING AFTER HER AGAIN-- AND THIS TIME I'M GOING TO DO IT RIGHT!

I HAVE TO ADMIT IT, ZIG, I'M ENJOYING FACING A LITTLE CHALLENGE!

IT COULD BE FUN HAVING A BIT OF CHASE BEFORE THE SCORE!

UNDOUBTEDLY, SIR! BUT, BEFORE YOU GO OFF ON THE HUNT, MAY I REMIND YOU THAT YOUR ACCOUNTANT HAS BEEN CALLING CONSTANTLY ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS!

DETAILS, ZIG! IN SHOW BIZ, YOU'RE BROKE TODAY, A BILLIONAIRE AGAIN TOMMORROW! WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT "FINANCIAL PROBLEMS"? I'M **ROMAN NEKOBOH**, SHOW BIZ LEGEND--!

AND THOSE PEOPLE RINGING THE DOORBELL ARE REPORTERS! LET 'EM IN, ZIG-- THEN TAKE FIVE!

THANK-YOU, SIR!

LATER, AT A DOWNTOWN NIGHTSPOT--

COCKTAILS

The ZEST

COCKTAILS

*--ALISON BLAIRE, THE **DAZZLER** MAKES HER LOS ANGELES DEBUT...*

♫ I'M STILL STANDIN'! ♪

SEE WHAT I MEAN, SMYTHE!

I DO INDEED, MR. BEALE!

♫ ...BETTER THAN I EVER ♪ ♫ DID... ♪

NO WONDER THEY CALL YOU "DAZZLER"! YOU'RE LITERALLY **SPARKLING!!**

♫ ...LOOKING LIKE A TRUE SURVIVOR... ♫ ♪

♫...I'M STILL STANDIN'! ♫

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THANK-YOU! THANK-YOU!

SHE'S FABULOUS!

ABSOLUTELY STUNNING... ENTRANCING, SMYTHE!

SHE'S ALL YOU SAID--AND SHE HAS A FANTASTIC VOICE, TOO! HOW DOES SHE MAKE THAT--THAT *SPARKLING*?!

I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THAT MYSELF!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CLAUDE RUBIO ON PIANO!

HOW DO YOU *DO* THAT?

TRADE SECRET! IT'S JUST A LITTLE STAGE MAGIC! I DO IT WITH A GADGET!

AND I AM THE *DAZZLER!*

THANK-YOU! THANK-YOU!

GREAT GIMMICK! REALLY SPICES UP THE ACT!

SUDDENLY...

WHAT--WHAT'S ALL THIS?!

THERE SHE IS!!

KLIK! KLIK!

SMILE, MISS BLAIRE!

COME ON, MISS BLAIRE! DON'T PLAY GAMES!

ROMAN NEKOBOH ANNOUNCED THIS EVENING THAT YOU'RE GOING TO CO-STAR WITH HIM IN HIS UPCOMING MOVIE!

HE *DID*?!

WHERE DID YOU FIRST MEET MR. NEKOBOH?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED?

WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE YOU LOVED ROMAN?

AHH--! THOSE FLASHES-- BLINDING EVERY-BODY!

EXCEPT... *HER!* SHE DOESN'T EVEN BLINK!!

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE RUMORS OF NEKOBOH'S MONEY TROUBLES?

HAVE YOU DONE OTHER FILMS? IS IT TRUE YOU WERE A PORN STAR?

IS ROMAN AS GOOD IN BED AS HIS LEGEND WOULD INDICATE?

DO YOU KNOW HE WAS SEEN WITH LIBBY SCHILLING LAST NIGHT? AND SUSAN TWOBOOMS THE NIGHT BEFORE?

ARE YOU THE JEALOUS TYPE, MISS BLAIRE?

UH... NO COMMENT! NOW EXCUSE ME!

PLEASE! THIS IS MY DRESSING ROOM--!

WHAT, SHE ASKED CURIOUSLY, IN BLOODY HELL WAS *THAT* ALL ABOUT? WHAT IS ROMAN UP TO? WHAT'S HE DOING?

I'VE GOT A FEELING I'D BETTER SNEAK OUT THE BACK WAY!

THEY'RE PROBABLY WAITING OUT FRONT FOR ME! HOW AM I EVER GOING TO GET PAST THEM TO THE BUS STOP?

HEY! THERE'S A CAB!

TAXI!

MOMENTS LATER...

UM... PULL OVER, PLEASE!

BUT LADY, WE JUST GOT STARTED!

I KNOW, BUT THIS IS ALL THE MONEY I HAVE! I CAN'T AFFORD TO RIDE ANY FURTHER! THANKS!

NIOR'S

LIQUOR

NO ON!

BAR

NOW I'VE GOT TO **WALK** HOME! DARN THAT ROMAN!

AN HOUR AND A HALF LATER...

THESE SHOES WERE ***NOT*** MADE FOR HIKING!!

I'M EXHAUSTED! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO BED!

WHAT?! ***ROMAN?!***

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!

YOUR SUPER IS A BIG FAN OF MINE!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU--AND YOU SHOULD BE HONORED! TIME AND TIDE WAIT FOR NO MAN, AND ROMAN NEKOBOH WAITS FOR NO WOMAN--USUALLY!

I MADE AN EXCEPTION TONIGHT, BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D WANT TO CELEBRATE!

ALL I WANT TO DO IS GO TO BED!

THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

I--I MEAN I--

ROMAN, *NO!!*

COME ON, ALI, MELT IN MY ARMS... OR AT LEAST STOP SQUIRMING!

OH!

HUH?!

CRASH

THAT *DOES* IT! GET OUT OF MY APARTMENT AND OUT OF MY LIFE!

ALI, MY DEAR, YOU'RE MAGNIFICENT WHEN YOU'RE PURPLE WITH RAGE--! BUT IT'S SO UNNECESSARY!

STOP FIGHTING IT! LET PASSION OVERWHELM YOU!

ARE YOU CRAZY?!! GET OUT OF HERE!! LEAVE ME ALONE!!

ALI, WOMEN DON'T TURN *ME* DOWN!

I DO! GOT IT?!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL -- *ABOVE* LITTLE THINGS LIKE COMMON DECENCY! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR KIND TODAY!

AL!, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW HOLLYWOOD WORKS!

OUT!

THERE ARE LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SINGERS WHO'D GIVE *ANYTHING* FOR WHAT I'M OFFERING! DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN THIS PIGSTY FOREVER?!

CAN'T YOU HEAR?! OUT! *OUT! OUT!!*

ALL RIGHT! BUT YOUR CAREER IS *DEAD!* UNDERSTAND?!

OUT!

SLAM

GREAT...

...JUST GREAT!

SO MUCH FOR DREAMS, HUH?

WHAT A DAY--! IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT TO BE SHATTERED?

NEXT MORNING...

I COULD JUST ROLL UP IN A BALL AND DIE... OR RUN HOME TO DADDY...

...OR START OVER!

I FEEL LIKE MASHED POTATOES... BUT I'M NOT READY TO GIVE IN YET!

AH! THERE SHE IS!

GOOD MORNING, ALI!

Mr. Donn

OH—! YOU!

THIS IS "MORNING!" RIGHT? IT'S A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME, BEING AWAKE AT THIS TIME OF DAY!

YOU LOOK TERRIFIC! ALMOST AS GOOD AS I DO! LET'S TAKE A RIDE AND WATCH THE LESSER MORTALS GAPE!

MR NEKOBOH, PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT A SACRIFICE I'VE MADE FOR YOU? IT'S A.M.! *MORNING!* THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS TALK TO ME!

WHAT DO I HAVE TO SAY TO GET RID OF YOU?!

LET'S DISCUSS OUR MOVIE!

I'M NOT INTERESTED! DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY?

NO, BUT HUM A FEW BARS...

EYES

CAR!

NOW

RIVER

QUA

HE'S STUCK IN TRAFFIC! GOOD! NOW IF I CAN JUST LOSE MYSELF IN THE CROWD!

ALI! WAIT A MINUTE! ALI!

BA

EL

OH, NO! U-TURNS ARE ILLEGAL! HE CAN'T DO THAT! NEVER A POLICEMAN WHEN YOU NEED ONE!

ALL RIGHT, ROMAN! IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT!

I HATE DOING THIS... BUT YOU'RE FORCING ME!

FOR RENT

NO ONE CAN SEE ME HERE! NOW... I'LL JUST LET ALL THE SOUND AROUND, INCLUDING ROMAN'S NOISY ENGINE, FLOW THROUGH ME--! GATHER IT... CONCENTRATE IT... HOLD IT, HOLD IT...

NOW!

HOLEE!!

BULLSEYE! MY LASER-INTENSITY LIGHT BEAM SLICED THOSE TIRES LIKE RAZORS!

BWHAM BWHAM

EEEYOWW!!

OH, NO! HE WAS GOING FASTER THAN I THOUGHT!

I CAN'T DIE! I'M A LEGEND!

UHH!!

KRASH

ROMAN!

MY GOD! MY ENTIRE LIFE FLASHED BEFORE MY EYES! WHAT A MOVIE IT WOULD MAKE! WHY, ANY TWO DAYS OF IT, AT RANDOM WOULD MAKE A LOVE-EPIC!

HE'S OKAY!

UH-OH! HE'S MORE OKAY THAN I WANTED!

ALI! WAIT UP!

YOU MANIAC! WHY DON'T YOU GO CORRUPT A TROOP OF GIRL SCOUTS!?

AZN

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY!!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY! NO TRAFFIC, NO TIRES TO BLOW -- JUST MY LITHE BRONZED, BODY PURSUING YOURS, UNTIL YOU COLLAPSE INTO MY ARMS, YOUR SUCCULENT BREAST HEAVING!

THAT'LL BE THE DAY!

GIVE IT UP, ROMAN BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF!

NONSENSE! I'M NOT TIRING! I'M SAVING IT UP--

--FOR AN ALL-OUT DRAMATIC SPRINT--

-- TO... THE F-FINISH!

OH... MY... GOD...

ROMAN!!

ROMAN?

OHH-H!

ARE YOU OKAY?

IF YOU'RE FAKING...

N-NO! HELP ME...! M-MY HEART...!

ALL RIGHT! JUST HANG ON! I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!

HEY--!

AHA! YOU *DO* CARE!

WHAT ?!!

I *KNEW* IT! TELL ME, JUST WHEN DID MY FATAL CHARM GET TO YOU?

YOU--YOU SLIMY!

WILSHIRE

WAS IT LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT? OR DID IT SNEAK UP AND OVER-WHELM YOU A FEW SECONDS *AFTER* YOU SAW ME?

ARE YOU FINISHED? I'D LIKE TO GET ON WITH MY LIFE!

INTI

OH, CERTAINLY! BY ALL MEANS! HERE, YOU DROPPED YOUR PAPER!

ALLOW ME!

WHY... THIS IS THE "EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES" SECTION! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A *JOB*?

I WAS! NOW, THANKS TO YOU I'M A MESS! I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME, GET CLEANED UP, AND START OVER!

YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU'RE *FAR* TOO DISHEVELLED TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO A PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER! AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT! TELL YOU WHAT--LET ME BUY YOU A CUP OF COFFEE TO MAKE UP FOR IT!

OH, ALL RIGHT! ON *ONE* CONDITION-- YOU SPEAK YOUR PIECE AND THEN YOU LEAVE ME ALONE *FOREVER!* OKAY?

DEAL!

SOON...

THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A *COFFEE SHOP*?

IT'S NOT MUCH, I ADMIT, BUT IT WAS CONVENIENT, AND YOU SEEMED TO BE IN A HURRY!

UH-HUH! WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

I'LL LEVEL WITH YOU, ALI! YOU'RE AN UNUSUAL WOMAN! I LIKE YOU!

THANKS, BUT YOU HAVE A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING THAT, ROMAN!

I KNOW! AT ANY RATE, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER BIMBO READY TO DO ANYTHING WITH ANYBODY TO GET AHEAD! YOU'VE GOT STRONG PRINCIPLES! YOU EVEN RESISTED *MY* IRRESISTIBLE CHARM!

I *ADMIRE* THAT--! AND I HAVEN'T ADMIRED ANYONE EXCEPT MYSELF FOR A LONG TIME!

AGAIN, THANKS, BUT--

SEE, I WANT YOU TO SUCCEED! IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE LIKE YOU SUCCEEDED!

I WANT YOU TO BE IN MY MOVIE--NO STRINGS ATTACHED!

I-I DON'T KNOW, ROMAN! I DON'T THINK--

YEAH, IT'S TIME I MADE ANOTHER MOVIE! I...UH... WELL... MY ACCOUNTANTS ADVISE ME TO!

OF COURSE IT'S A LOT OF HASSLE, BUT... IT'D BRING IN THE DOUGH... PERK UP THE OL' RECORD SALES...YOU KNOW--! HELP SUPPORT MY LAWYERS, AGENTS, AND EX-WIVES IN THE EXTRAVAGANT MANNER TO WHICH THEY'VE BECOME ACCUSTOMED!

A GOOD MOVIE WITH A NEWLY DISCOVERED HOT YOUNG STARLET WITH REAL TALENT COULD BE JUST THE TICKET!

YEP! WITH YOUR LOOKS, YOUR TALENT, MY INFLUENCE AND MY REP, WE COULD BOTH DO OKAY!

ROMAN, DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT? YOU HAVE YOUR PICK OF EVERY GIRL WHO WANTS A BREAK! DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

O-OKAY!

YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES, KID! AND I BELIEVE THAT WITH ALL MY HEART, SOUL, AND WALLET!

NOW LET'S GET STARTED!

LET'S GET *GOING* THEN! MY LIMO OUGHT TO BE HERE BY NOW. WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO!

OH?

OF *COURSE!* WE'VE GOT TO FIND A STUDIO... A SCRIPT... RAISE MONEY! BUT THOSE ARE BUSINESS DETAILS I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE HANDLE THAT STUFF LATER!

FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF *YOU!*

ME?

BUT...

WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF THAT DUMP YOU LIVE IN! AND YOU'LL NEED A NEW WARDROBE! JEWELS, FURS...

NO BUTS! IMAGE IS EVERYTHING! TO MAKE IT IN THIS TOWN, YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK AS THOUGH YOU ALREADY *HAVE!*

SOON, IN AN EXCLUSIVE BEVERLY HILLS CLOTHIERS...

THOSE ARE FINE! WE'LL TAKE ALL OF THEM!

OF COURSE, SIR!

ROMAN, THAT'S ALMOST A HUNDRED THOU--

HUSH!

AND LATER...

BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE VALLEY, DON'T YOU THINK, SIR?

BUT THE *PRICE* IS...

RIDICULOUS! WE'LL TAKE IT!

OF COURSE!

ON TO *TIFFANY'S* MY DEAR!

THAT NIGHT...

WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS THIS JOINT ADEQUATE?

ADEQUATE?! THIS IS A FANTASY! A WISH DREAM!!

I COULDN'T AFFORD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON A CLUB SODA IN THIS "JOYNT"!

BUT WHY DID WE COME HERE?

WHY, WE'RE BEING SEEN, ALI! TRUST ME -- EVERYBODY HERE IS TALKING ABOUT US! TOMORROW WE'LL BE IN ALL THE SCANDAL SHEETS!

WE--WE WILL?!

UH-HUH! COME ON, LET'S DANCE!

AND...

DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE THE SEXIEST EYES IN THE WORLD!

NO, BUT HUM A FEW BARS...

CUTE.

MUCH LATER...

THERE THEY ARE!

GOT IT! WHAT A SHOT!!

RIGHT NOW, SCANDAL SHEET RESEARCHERS ARE DIGGING UP EVERY LITTLE BIT OF DIRT IN YOUR PAST, ALI! IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH, THEY'LL INVENT SOME! MINE THEY KNOW BY HEART, ALREADY!

NOTHING LIKE A SIZZLING HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE TO PERK UP THE PRESS!

PRETENDING TO BE AN ITEM IS FUN!

WE COULD STOP PRE-TENDING!

COME ON ROMAN! CUT IT OUT!!

NEXT WEEK, AT THE NEKOBOH MANSION...

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN* YOU CAN'T GET ANY BACKERS?! WHAT THE HELL KIND OF BUSINESS MANAGER ARE YOU

WELL RUN SOME TRADE ADS! FEATURE HER FACE -- ALMOST AS MUCH AS MINE!

NEKOBOH

Variety

30¢

NEW!

BUT SHE'S THE PROBLEM, ROMAN! IT SEEMS THAT A WHILE BACK, AT A FEW SMALL-CHANGE SINGING PERFORMANCES IN NEW YORK, SHE WAS SEEN WITH THOSE *MUTANT* WEIRDOES -- THE "X-MEN"!

THERE ARE *PHOTOS* OF HER WITH THEM!

EXCLUSIVE!

NATIONAL SCANDAL!

MONEY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF MUTANT ASSOCIATIONS!

WHAT?! OF ALL THE --! RUN THE ADS ANYWAY! AND GET ME SOME NEW SCRIPTS, FAST! THESE ARE GARBAGE!

OKAY, ROMAN... BUT IT'S A WASTE OF TIME! BYE!

DAYS LATER, AT ALISON BLAIRE'S PLUSH NEW HOME...

I CAN'T *WAIT* TO GET STARTED, ROMAN! I'M SO EXCITED!

YEAH, ME TOO!

HELP ME PICK OUT SOME PUBLICITY SHOTS FROM THESE PROOFS! I CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND!

SURE... RIGHT AFTER I GET ANOTHER DRINK!

THESE ARE *ALL* SO GOOD! YOU LOOK SO HANDSOME!

NATURALLY!

YOU REALLY HAVE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BLUE EYES!

UH-HUH!

ROMAN...

YEAH, DOLL?

ROMAN, PLEASE... PUT THAT THING DOWN! I... WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!

WH-WHAT IS IT?

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW, THAT IF THERE IS NO MOVIE... IT'S OKAY!

I'M REALLY GLAD WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER, OKAY?

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*, "IF THERE IS NO MOVIE"...? OF *COURSE* THERE'S GOING TO BE A MOVIE!

I... UH... KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A BACKER...

KID, I TOLD YOU ONCE, JUST LEAVE THAT TO *ME*! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE *FINE*, BABE! YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH NEKOBOH!

THERE'S NO TROUBLE! I'M JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT ONE! I'VE BEEN LEAVING A FEW HOPEFUL BILLIONAIRES IN SUSPENSE-- LETTING THEM SWEAT! BUT IT'S TIME FOR ACTION!

DUTY CALLS! TIME TO GET CRACKING AND GET THINGS SHAKING! SEE YOU SOON, DOLL!

CLICK

OH, ROMAN--! I HOPE THIS ALL WORKS OUT--

FOX SCOOP

EXCLUSIVE:

ROMAN: I'M IN LOVE AGAIN

BOB HARRIS SMITTEN BY LADY MAITRE D' AT GENUINE'S!

--FOR YOUR SAKE, NOT MINE!

I DO CARE!

NEXT MORNING, IN THE BEVERLY HILLS OFFICES OF BEALE PRODUCTIONS...

VERY INTERESTING...

VARIETY

STILL NO BACKER

Los Angeles Times

NEKOBOH'S NEW FILM STALLED

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FAILS TO MATERIALIZE

...VERY INTERESTING!

MISS CORBO, GET ME ROMAN NEKOBOH'S BUSINESS MANAGER ON THE PHONE! IF HE STILL DOESN'T HAVE ANY BACKERS, TELL HIM I MAY BE INTERESTED!

ARRANGE A MEETING WITH NEKOBOH TO DISCUSS MY TERMS!

THAT EVENING, AS ALISON ARRIVES AT THE NEKOBOH MANSION...

ALI! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET HERE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHAT'S ALL THIS?!

WE DID IT, DOLL! WE'VE GOT THE BACKING!!

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE! CHAMPAGNE FOR EVERYONE!

WE DID IT WE DID IT WE DID IT WE DID IT WE DID IT!!

OH, ROMAN--! I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

FOR ME?

AND ME, TOO!

DO YOU MEAN THAT? DO YOU REALLY CARE MORE ABOUT ME...

WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL AND WALLET!

I BELIEVE YOU! YOU--YOU'RE JUST INCREDIBLE, ALI!

OH, ROMAN!

HEY, ROMIE! BLUE EYES! YOU DID IT! HEY, CHAIRMAN, DID YOU... HEAR... ME?

ROMIE?

WHOOPS! I THINK THEY WANT TO BE ALONE!

BEAT THAT, WILLYA! AN' ME, HIS BEST PAL, ZIG!

MAY I SUGGEST, SIR, THAT YOU JOIN THE OTHERS INSIDE-- WHERE THE PARTY IS JUST BEGINNING!

I'M SURE MR. NEKOBOH WILL JOIN THE GROUP SOON!

MINUTES LATER...

LET'S GO INSIDE!

YES... BUT NOT TO THE PARTY... OKAY?

IT'S NO BIG DEAL TO *ME*, REALLY, PICKING A BACKER! BUSINESS AS USUAL! I THREW THE PARTY BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D WANT TO CELEBRATE!

THANK YOU, ROMAN! I *DO* WANT TO CELEBRATE!

GREAT! WE'LL DANCE ALL NIGHT...OR *MOST* OF IT, ANYWAY! I MAY BAIL OUT EARLY -- SAY THREE OR FOUR A.M.! IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY, BABE, AND FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I JUST WANT TO GO TO BED!

EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

HMM... DEJA VU...

C'MON, BLUE EYES! MELT IN MY ARMS... OR AT LEAST STOP SQUIRMING!

SHOULD I KICK THE TABLE OVER NOW, FOR OLD TIMES SAKE?

ROMAN... I-- I... THERE'S JUST ONE THING...

UH-UH-*UH!* STOP FIGHTING IT! LET PASSION OVERWHELM YOU~! YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN!

ALI! WHAT'S WRONG?!

ROMAN... I *CAN'T!* I'M SORRY!

DON'T ASK ME TO EXPLAIN!

I JUST CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T GET THAT INVOLVED WITH YOU!

WHY, ALI? BECAUSE YOU'RE A MUTANT?

YES... I AM. YOU KNEW?

YEAH!

H-HOW?

FIGURES! THAT'S THE SECRET OF YOUR "STAGE GIMMICK," RIGHT?

YES!

I-I ABSORB SOUND WAVES--MUSIC, ANY SOUND--AND, SOMEHOW, MY BODY TRANSDUCES THE ENERGY INTO LIGHT!

THE STEREO'S ON! SHOW ME HOW IT WORKS!

O-OKAY!

LIKE *THIS!*

MELTED THE ICE... BOILED AWAY THE WATER... AND VAPORIZED THE ICE BUCKET--!

LIGHT DID *THAT?!*

IT WAS A LASER! I CAN DO ANY KIND OF LIGHT!

THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

YES, I KNOW, I *KNOW!* AND NOW YOU THINK I'M A FREAK!

NO! YOU'RE WRONG, ALI!

I THINK YOU'RE MAGNIFICENT!

BUT I'M NOT *HUMAN!*

I'M NOT EXACTLY AVERAGE MYSELF!

I WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU, ALI!

REALLY? STILL? BUT...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO! AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW, THAT IF WE DON'T, IT'S OKAY! I'M JUST *REAL* GLAD WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

I LOVE YOUM-M-M!

OH! ROMAN, YOU CRAZY--!

NEXT MORNING...

GOOD MORNING, DARLING! DID YOU SLEEP WELL?

WONDERFULLY! I HOPE I DIDN'T WAKE YOU WHEN I GOT UP! I JUST CAN'T SLEEP AS LATE AS YOU!

YOU MEAN YOU **RECOVER** FASTER! I DID, TOO, AT YOUR AGE! YOU KNOW, A YEAR OR SO AGO!

HERE IS THE PAPER YOU REQUESTED, MADAME!

THANKS, ZIGGY!

WHAT?! ROMAN! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

BUT IT'S HERE IN BLACK AND WHITE! LOOK AT THIS HEADLINE!

OUR BACKER IS **ERIC BEALE!**

HIS MONEY IS NO GOOD? OR IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?

NO! I MEAN--

HE'S-- HE'S NOT A NICE MAN! HE'S RUTHLESS! HE'D STOP AT NOTHING TO GET WHAT HE WANTS!

SO? WHAT HE WANTS IS TO BACK OUR FILM!

THAT MAN IS **TROUBLE**, ROMAN! HE BOUGHT THE CLUB WHERE I WORKED BECAUSE HE WANTED A DATE WITH ME!

GEE... I WISH **I'D** THOUGHT OF THAT!

ROMAN! THIS IS SERIOUS! I'M WORRIED! I--I NEED A DRINK!

THANK YOU, JAMES!

CALM DOWN, ALI!

FIRST OF ALL, BEALE HIMSELF PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW HIS SYNDICATE'S MONEY IS BEING INVESTED IN THE FILM!

SECOND, I'VE BEEN GUARANTEED CARTE BLANCHE AS PART OF THE DEAL! BEALE COULDN'T INTERFERE WITH US IF HE TRIED!

YOU HAD A CALL, SIR! HERE IS THE MESSAGE!

THANKS, ZIG!

WHERE WAS I? OH, YES-- DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY HEAD ABOUT BEALE, ALI! I HAVE *ABSOLUTE* CONTROL!

I'M STILL NERVOUS! HE'S SUCH A SNAKE!

I NEED ANOTHER DRINK!

IS THAT SOMETHING IMPORTANT!

THIS? NO! IT'S NOTHING!

NOTHING AT ALL!

NOW, CALM DOWN... RELAX! AND LEAVE THE BUSINESS TO ME!

TRUST ME!

O-OKAY!

WHY DON'T YOU RUN ALONG AND SHOP OR SOMETHING?

I... UH, MAY HAVE TO GO OUT MYSELF FOR A WHILE -- AND CLEAN UP SOME CONTRACT DETAILS WITH THE STUDIO!

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BUY SOME NEW GOWNS FOR THIS WEEK'S PARTIES!

RIGHT! AND I'LL SEE YOU LATER THIS EVENING! IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO GET THAT SHOPPING DONE TODAY--

ERIC BEALE
6100 BUENA VISTA
LOS ANGELES

Rayman! My place at 2 P.M.!!
Eric

"-- WE'VE GOT A BUSY WEEK AHEAD OF US!"

ISN'T SHE STUNNING? AND THAT'S A KAMALI SUIT! TRES CHIC!

GREAT PARTY, ROMAN!

I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, CHAIRMAN! YOU FOUND THE MOST GORGEOUS WOMAN IN THE WORLD!

THE NEKOBOH MANSION

MONTE CARLO

YOU WIN, MISS BLAIRE!

OH, GOODY!

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU-- YOU'RE SO BLASÉ!

THE RIVIERA

EVER MAKE AN ANGEL IN THE SAND?

NO! A FEW DOZEN BIMBOS, MAYBE... BUT I'M GAME! LIE DOWN!

OH, ROMAN!

MAXIM'S

HOW DID YOU LIKE THE ESCARGOT?

THOSE... WERE *SNAILS* I ATE?!

KISS ME, YOU FOOL!

OKAY! NICE NOSE!

LOWER! *LOWER!*

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

THE ST. REGIS HOTEL

SO I SAID, "THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE OR NOTHING!" AND THEY MADE RONNIE TAKE THE OTHER ROOM!

LAS VEGAS

SORRY, BOYS! I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE ABOUT THE FILM!

CASINO

FREMONT

IN PERSON ROMAN NE

MISS BLAIRE, DO YOU CONSIDER YOURS A MAY-DECEMBER RELATIONSHIP?

CBS

ABSOLUTELY NOT! I'M ONLY A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN ROMAN! I WAS YOUNGER AT FIRST, BUT *NOW*...

NEW YORK: D'ANGELO'S

MORE CHAMPAGNE, MISS?

SURE!

AND BRING ANOTHER BOTTLE, HECTOR!

NEKOBOH MANSION...

JUST PUT IT IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, PEOPLE!

AND, HURRY, PLEASE! I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY IT ALL ON!

I BROUGHT YOU A MARTINI, MADAME! EXTRA DRY, JUST AS YOU PREFER!

YOU'RE A MIND-READER PERKINS!

JUST PUT THE PACKAGES ON THE BED, MARIE!

YES, MA'AM!

OH, WHAT A LOUSY DAY! I NEED A REFILL, PERKSIE!

YES, MA'AM!

I HOPE ROMIE LIKES MY NEW HAIRSTYLE..!

OH!

WOULD SOMEBODY PLEASE CALL ROMAN AND TELL HIM I'VE FINALLY FOUND A DECENT SCREENPLAY IN THAT MOUNTAIN OF DRECK! IT'S A GOOD VEHICLE FOR MY ABILITIES!

OH... MY... GOD...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, MISS BLAIRE? YOUR HAIR LOOKS LOVELY! REALLY!

JUST LEAVE, PLEASE! LEAVE ME ALONE!

RIGHT AWAY--! OH, MA'AM? THE PAPER ARRIVED!

JUST PUT IT ON THE TABLE... AND PLEASE GO!

MY HAIR ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT'S CHANGED! I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE MYSELF!

CAN THAT REALLY BE A CIGARETTE IN MY HAND? HOW COULD I-- HOW *COULD* I PICK UP SUCH A NASTY HABIT?

FROM *ROMAN!*

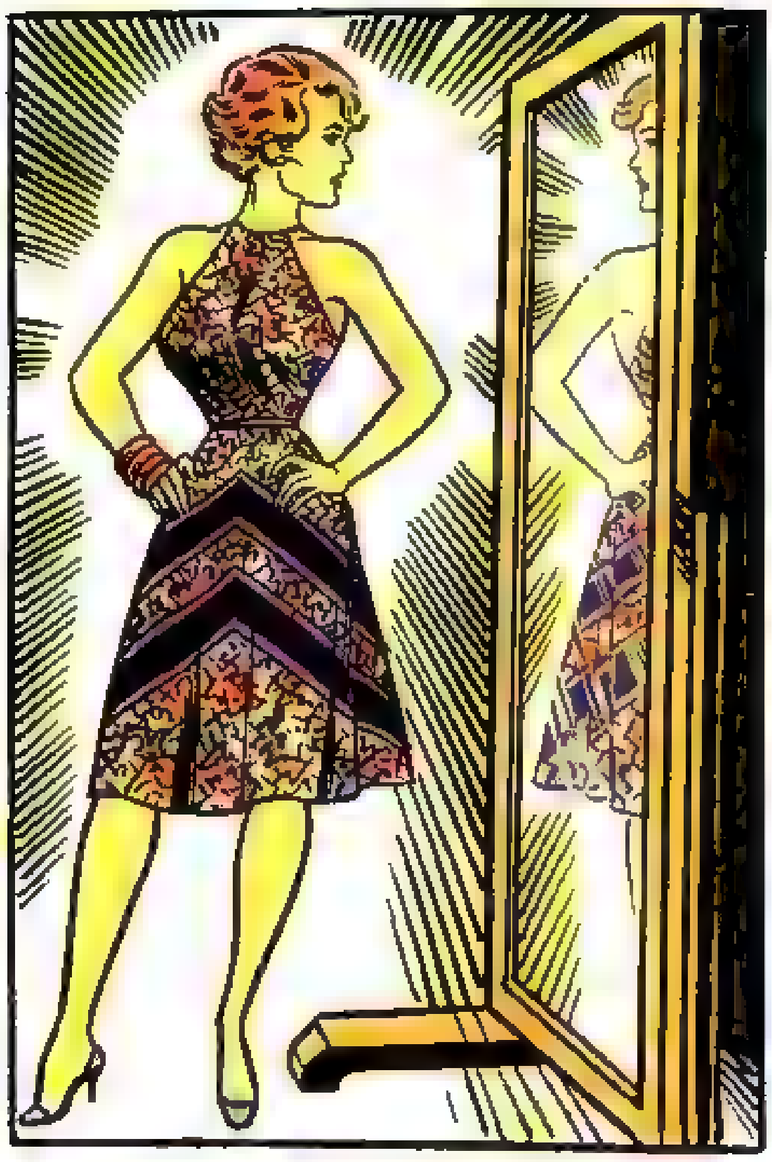
I'VE PUT ON A LOT OF WEIGHT!

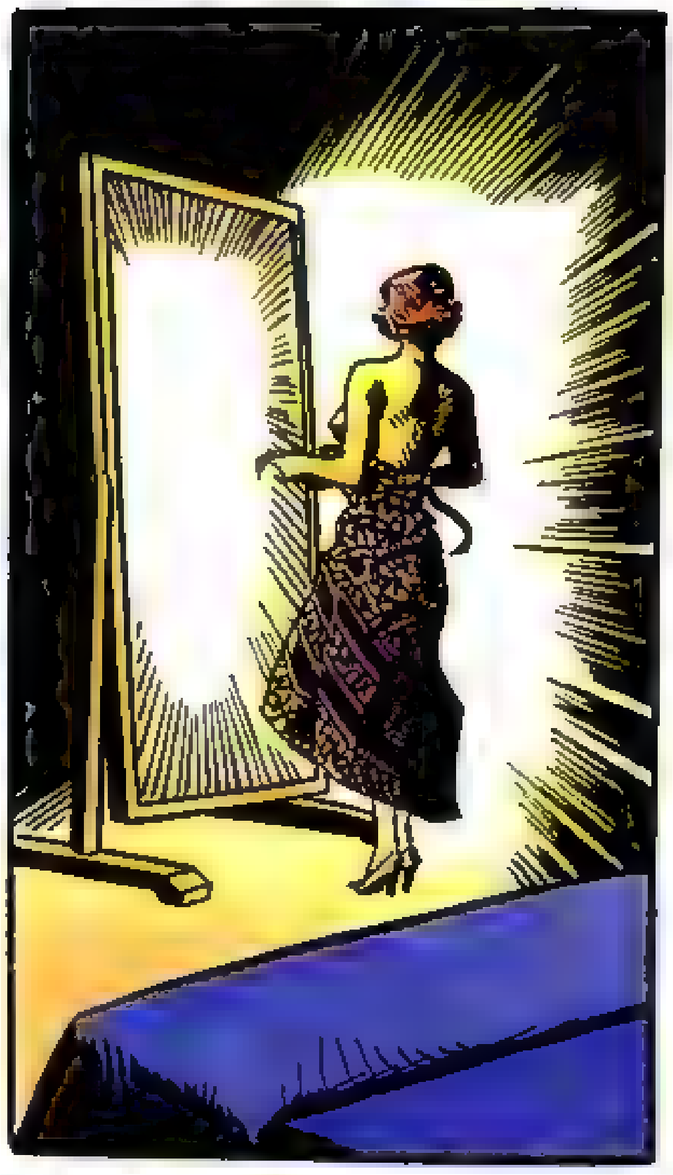
I NEVER USED TO BE FLABBY THERE!

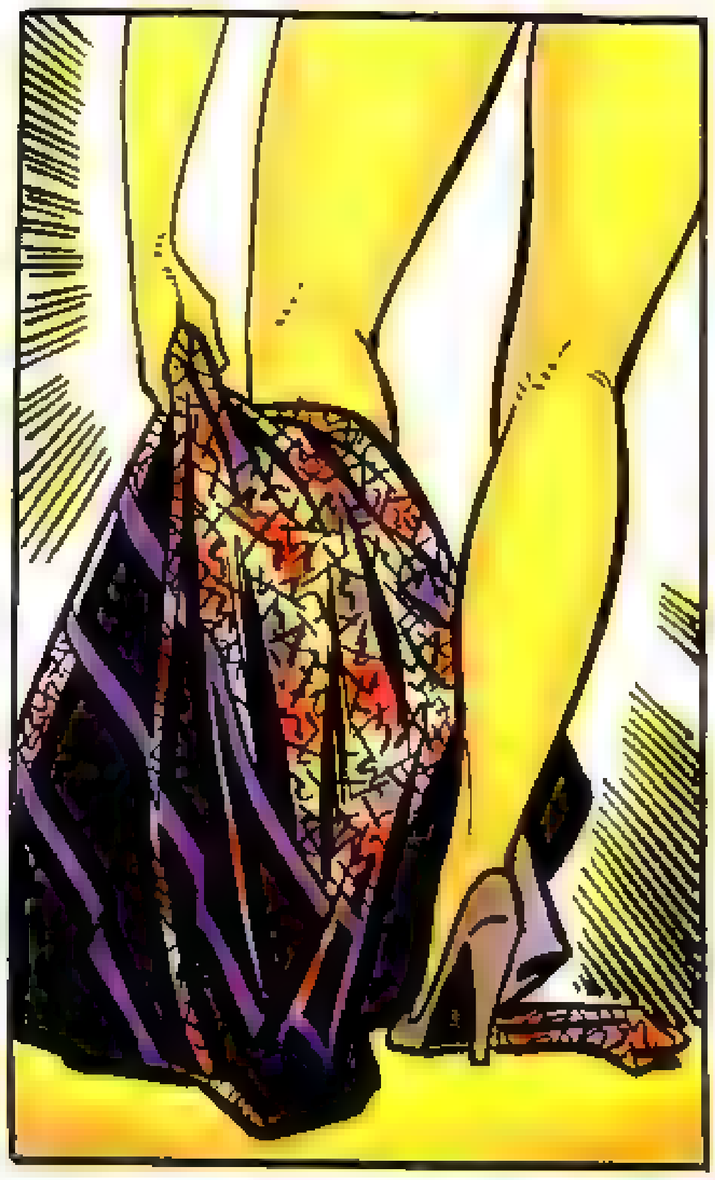
WHAT HAVE I DONE TO MYSELF? WHAT HAVE I *BECOME?*

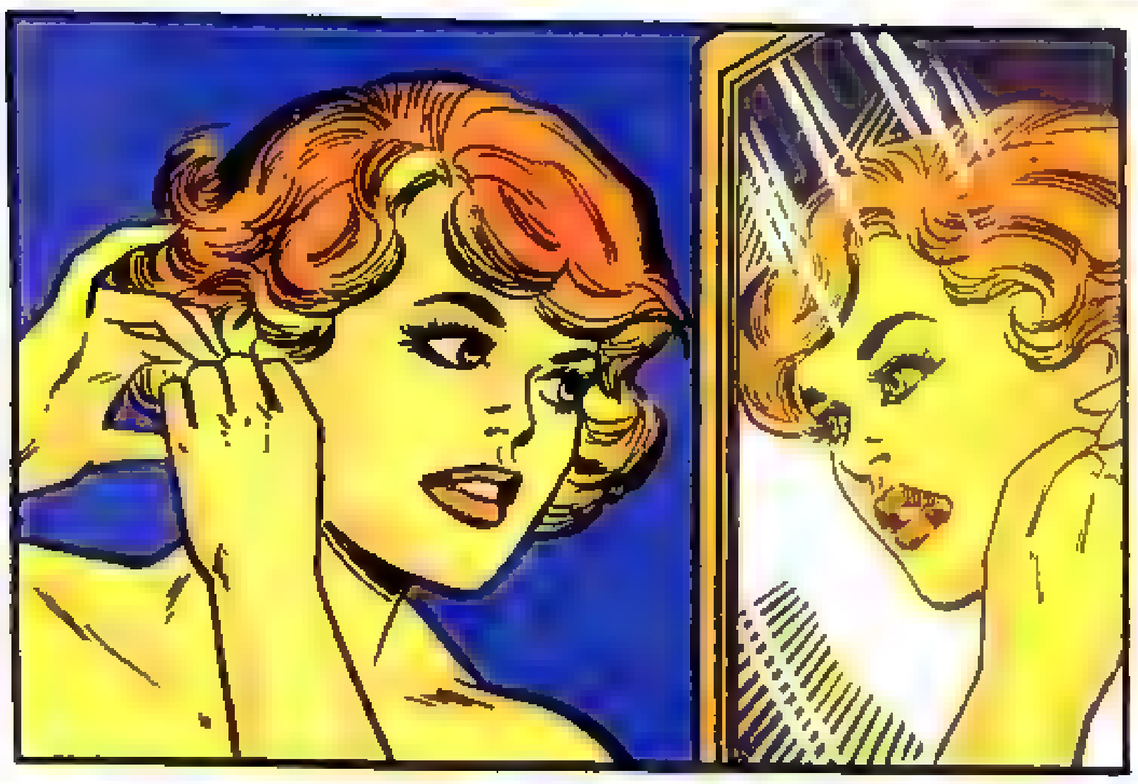
SNAP

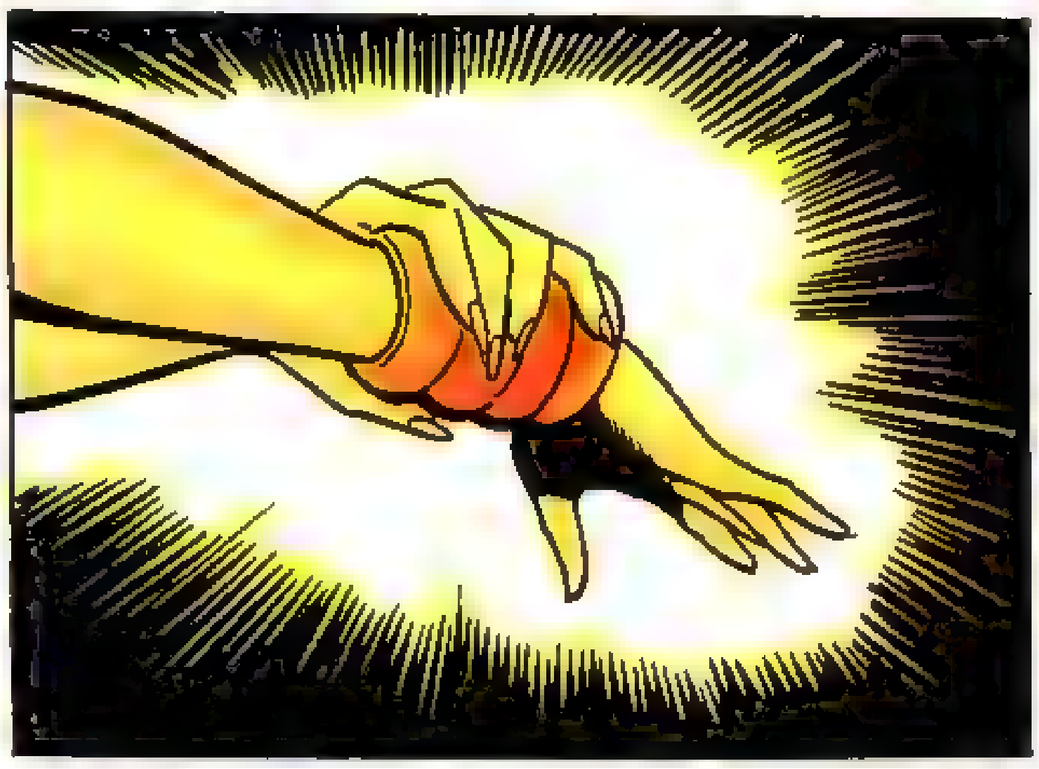
CLICK

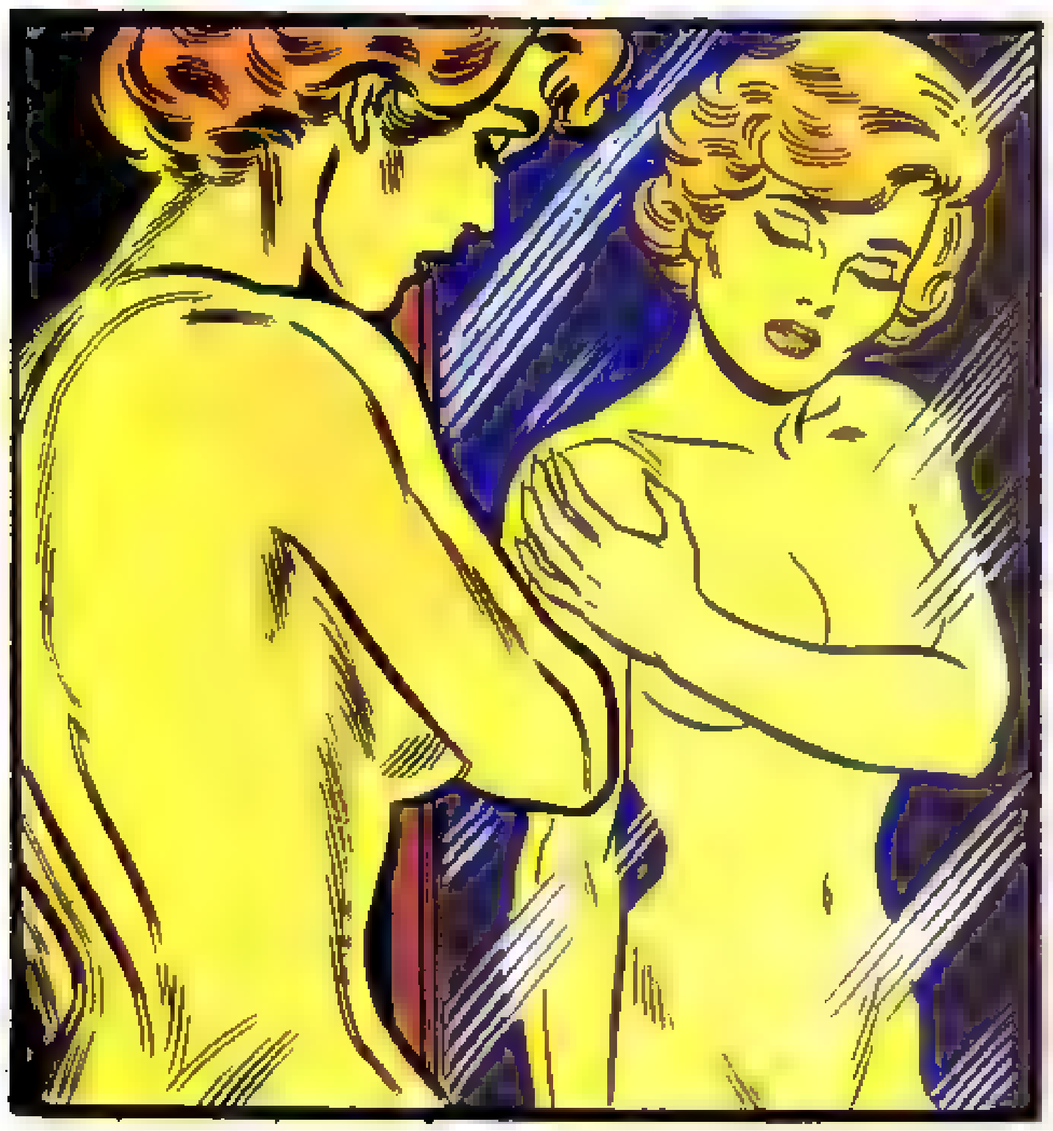


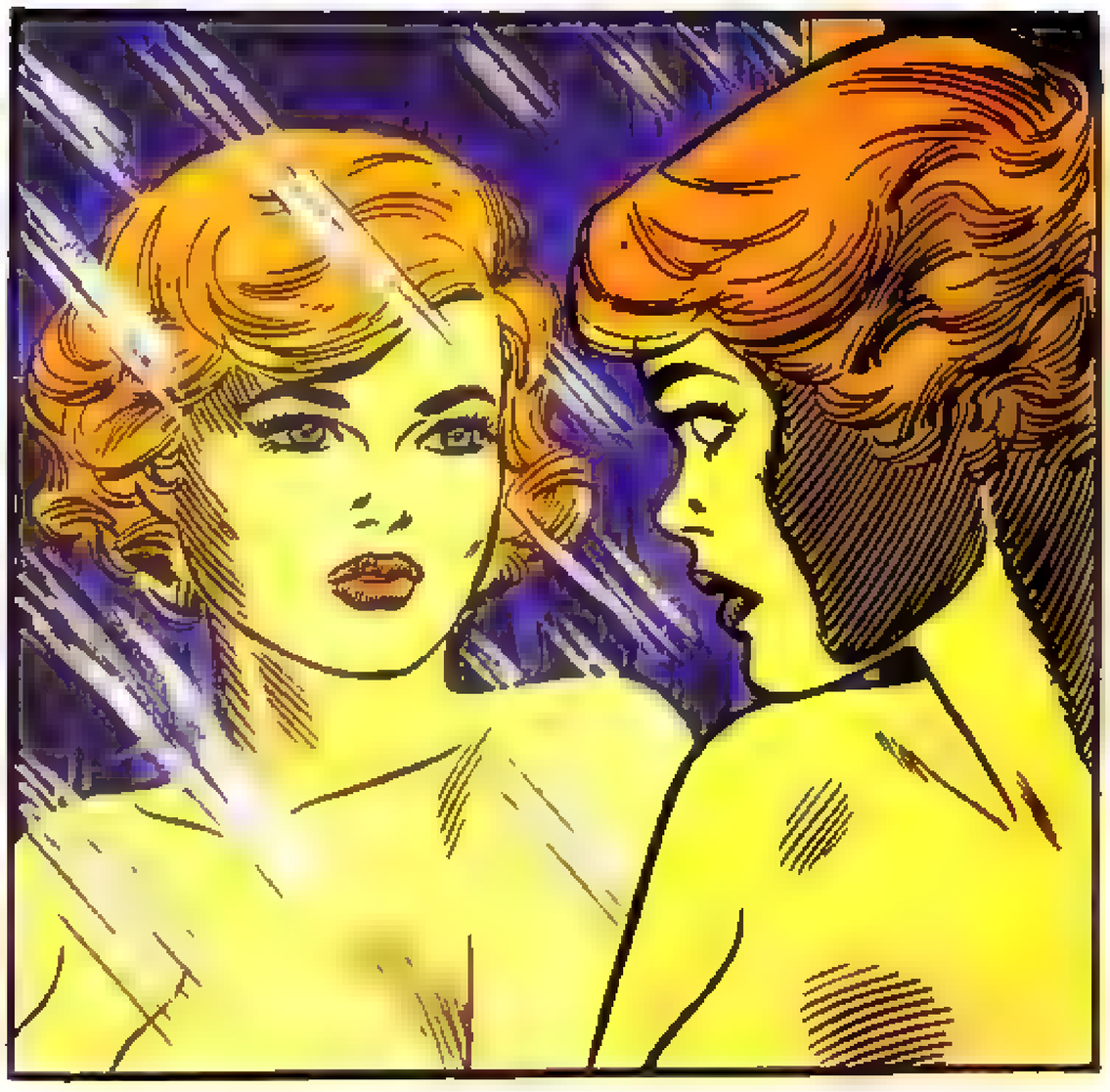












HIYA, ALI! HOW ARE...

WELL, WELL, WELL...

OH! ROMAN!!

WHY DIDN'T YOU KNOCK! I'M NOT DRESSED!

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT TAKING IT TOO HARD!

TAKING WHAT TOO HARD!

THIS! THE BIG REVELATION TO THE WORLD THAT YOU'RE A MUTANT!

WHAT?!?

WHO...WHO DID THIS?!!

I DID, DOLL, NATURALLY!

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEKOBOH'S FILM TO CO-STAR MUTANT!

SINGER ALISON BLAIRE REVEALED AS MUTANT

HOLLYWOOD

WHY?!!

BECAUSE IT'S A BRILLIANT PLOY! TALK ABOUT GENERATING PUBLICITY! THIS IS THE BEST GIMMICK EVER!

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

DON'T SWEAT IT, ALI! THIS'LL MAKE OUR MOVIE UNIQUE -- A LANDMARK! THE FIRST MOVIE STARRING A MUTANT! WHEN IT HITS BIG, IT'LL MAKE MUTANTS ACCEPTABLE! YOU'LL SEE!

I'VE COMMISSIONED A NEW SCRIPT ABOUT A MUTANT'S STRUGGLE! THIS MOVIE'S GOING TO MAKE HISTORY! I'LL BE REVERED AS A VISIONARY -- AND YOU'LL BE ANOTHER JACKIE ROBINSON, KID!

OH, UH... YOU'LL BE GIVING A PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR POWERS TOMORROW!

OH... GOD, ROMAN--!

NEXT EVENING, AT THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AIRPORT--

ZHBZ TELEVI

--THE GENTLEMEN AND LADIES OF THE PRESS GATHER IN FORCE--

--TO WITNESS A MOST UNUSUAL DEMONSTRATION.

WE'VE HAD TECHNICAL CREWS CRAWLING ALL OVER IT FOR HOURS! IT'S JUST A SIMPLE WOODEN PLATFORM-- NO TRICKS, NO GADGETS!

IF NEKOBOH'S PULLING SOME COLOSSAL HOAX, THIS ISN'T IT!

IT'S ALMOST EIGHT! THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE HALF AN HOUR AGO!

MAYBE THEY CAN'T GET THROUGH! TRAFFIC IS AT A STANDSTILL FOR MILES AROUND!

..THIS IS YOUR ACTION NEWS REPORTER, ON THE SCENE AT LAX! STILL NO SIGN OF ROMAN NEKOBOH AND BUDDING STARLET --AND ALLEGED MUTANT-- ALISON BLAIRE!

HEY, LOOK!

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE! THANKS FOR COMING!

IT'S *THEM!*

NEKOBOH SURE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE!

ARE YOU KIDDING! HE PRACTICALLY INVENTED 'EM!

AS YOU KNOW, LAST NIGHT I ANNOUNCED THAT MY CO-STAR FOR MY UP-COMING BEALE-PRODUCTIONS FEATURE FILM IS EVEN MORE OUTSTANDING THAN HER OBVIOUS ATTRIBUTES INDICATE!

SHE IS, IN FACT, ONE OF THOSE RARE, WONDROUS PEOPLE GIFTED WITH AN *EXTRA* ABILITY WHICH NO ORDINARY HUMAN POSSESSES! SHE IS A *MUTANT*

—AND SHE IS HERE TONIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE, FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE, THE MAGNIFICENCE AND SPLENDOR OF HER UNIQUE TALENTS!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MAY I PRESENT THE FABULOUSLY BEAUTIFUL *ALISON BLAIRE!*

SHE DON'T LOOK LIKE NO DANGEROUS MUTIE TO ME! CHECK OUT THOSE BAZOOMS!

FIRST, THESE CHARMING AND RESPECTABLE LADIES OF THE PRESS WILL INSPECT MISS BLAIRE UP CLOSE—HEY, LET'S FACE IT BOYS, I COULDN'T TRUST ANY OF *YOU* UP HERE!

HA HA HA HA

AND, HAVING SATISFIED THEMSELVES THAT NOTHING ABOUT HER ATTIRE, IF ANY, IS UNUSUAL—NO HIDDEN GADGETS OR TRICKS—WE SHALL PROCEED!

PILOTS! CAN YOU HEAR ME? GOOD! THEN—

—GENTLEMEN, START YOUR ENGINES!

WHREEEEEEEE

LOUD, AREN'T THEY?

WELL, TO ALISON BLAIRE... KNOWN IN SOME CIRCLES AS THE *DAZZLER*... THAT SOUND IS *FUEL*-- PURE ENERGY, WHICH SHE CAN ABSORB, CONVERT, AND RELEASE AGAIN IN THE FORM OF *LIGHT!*

RRROAAARR

ALISON--!

RR

ALI...! COME ON!

ROA

OH, MY SOUL! SHE'S *GLOWING!*

IT'S TRUE! SHE'S MAKING LIGHT!

NAH! IT'S GOT TO BE A GIMMICK!

HE WANTS IT LOUDER! OKAY, OPEN 'EM UP, GUYS!

RRR

AARR

RROAARR

ROARR

ROMAN'S OVERDOING IT! THE NOISE IS GETTING DEAFENING!

NO AMOUNT OF NOISE CAN HURT *ME*, BUT EVERYONE ELSE IS IN PAIN!

I'VE GOT TO ABSORB MORE OF THE NOISE!

MORE... *MORE!!*

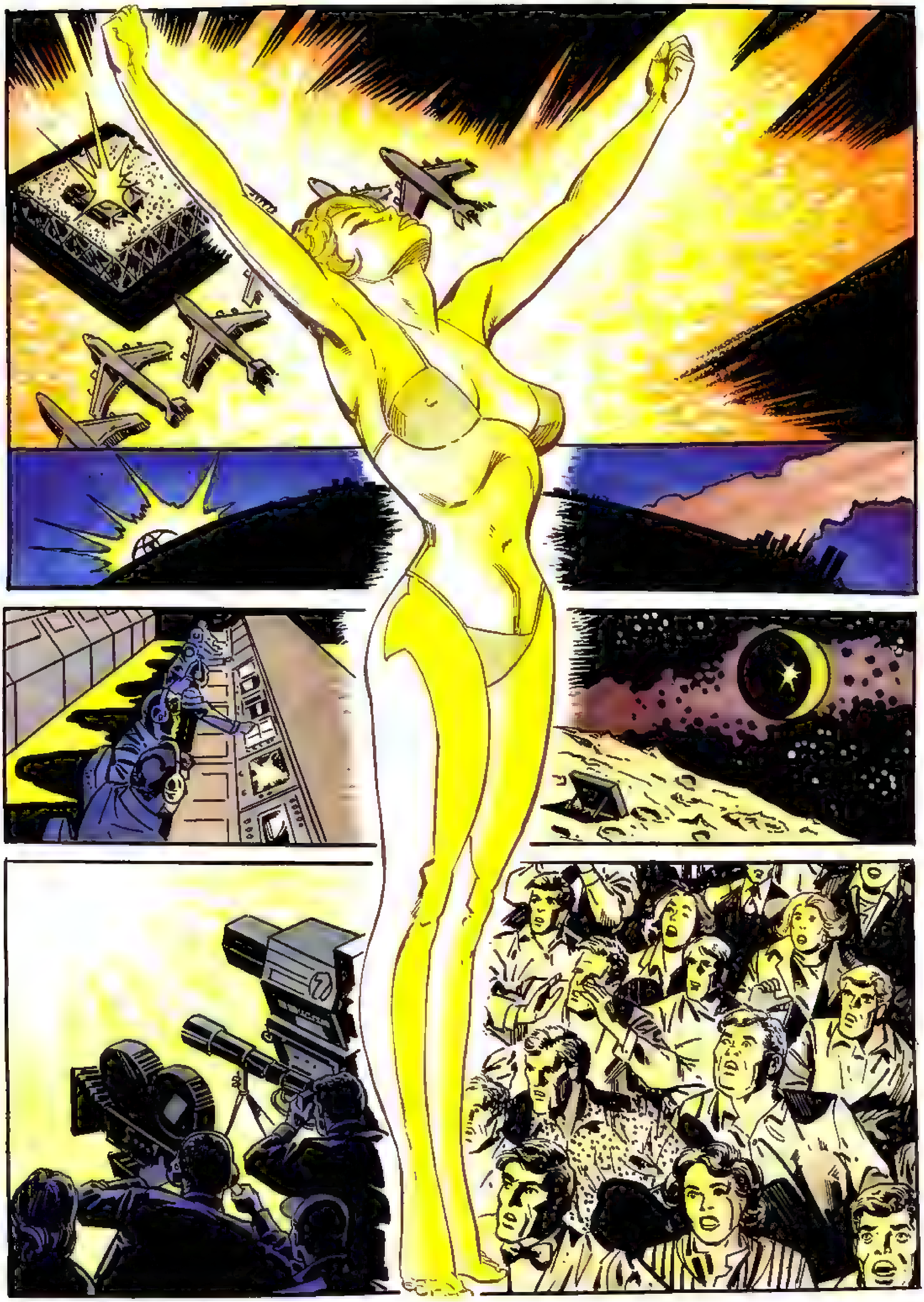
HEY! WHY'D THEY CUT OFF THE JETS?

SUDDENLY, IT'S DEAD QUIET! IS THE WHOLE CROWD IN SHOCK?!

NO! PEOPLE ARE SHOUTING AND SCREAMING-- BUT THEY--THERE'S NO SOUND!

SHE'S DOING THIS!!

MY GOD....



CUT THE ENGINES! IT'S OVER!

FOR A MOMENT, NEAR-SILENCE PREVAILS. THE CROWD REMAINS HUSHED WITH AWE...

I FEEL STRANGE... BUZZED! SOMETHING'S WRONG! SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT INSIDE!

THAT WAS A LOT OF ENERGY! I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT MYSELF!

ARE YOU HAPPY NOW, ROMAN?

SUDDENLY...

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

IT'S REAL! IT'S TRUE!!

SHE'S A MUTANT! SHE COULD KILL US ALL!

RUN! RUN!!

NICE WORK, NEKOBOH! I'LL BE IN TOUCH!

YEAH...

THEY LOVE YA KID!

THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF ME!

LET'S GO!

SOON...

IT'S ALL GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN, ALI! TRUST ME! I'M GOING TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY!

WHILE I GO DOWN IN FLAMES, RIGHT?

WHAT?

NOTHING.

LATER, OUTSIDE A CHIC NIGHTSPOT...

YOU SURE THIS IS WHERE THEY HANG OUT?

YEAH, MAN, I READ IT IN THE *STAR!*

THEY'LL PROB'LY BE HERE SOON!

HERE COMES ANOTHER LIMO! GET READY, JUST IN CASE!

IT'S THEM! GET 'EM!

MUTIE LOVER!!

HUH?

ROMAN! LOOK OUT!

KERACK!

SHEESUS! LOOK WHAT SHE DID TO THOSE *BRICKS!!*

GET BACK TO THE SEWER YOU CRAWLED OUT OF OR I'LL DO THE SAME TO *YOU!*

EEEYAAHH!!

ALI...I..

TAKE ME HOME, ROMAN...

SOON...

THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD TRICK BACK THERE... BUT HOW DID YOU *DO* IT? THERE WASN'T MUCH NOISE AROUND!

I DON'T KNOW HOW, OR WHY, BUT SOMETHING CHANGED INSIDE ME AT THE AIRPORT! I CAN *STORE* ENERGY NOW!

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY LITTLE SOUND CHARGES MY "BATTERIES"... I CAN FEEL POWER BUILDING UP!

SO I CAN LIGHT YOUR CIGARETTE WITHOUT TURNING ON THE RADIO! SEE!

UH... YEAH!

I NEVER USED TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT!

SOMETHING *ELSE* HAS CHANGED, TOO, ROMAN!

I'VE FINALLY REALIZED THAT, THANKS TO YOU, I'M REALLY *COMMITTED* NOW! I'VE *GOT* TO MAKE THIS MOVIE NOW-- FOR THE SAKE OF EVERY MUTANT ON EARTH!

I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT, BUT I HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE RESPECT AND TOLERANCE OF HUMANITY FOR ALL OF US! AND I'M NOT GOING TO BLOW IT!

FIRST-- I WANT NO MORE SURPRISES, ROMAN! GOT THAT?

LOOK, ALI...

DON'T "LOOK ALI" ME! I'M CALLING THE SHOTS NOW, UNDERSTAND? BECAUSE IT'S *MY* OVERPLUMP LITTLE ASS ON THE LINE!

IF, UH, YOU *WANT* TO TROUBLE YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD WITH BORING BUSINESS MATTERS--! LOOK, I'M JUST TRYING TO SPARE YOU--

WELL *STOP* TRYING! NOW, COME HERE!

WHAT?

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I SAID COME *HERE*, BIG BOY!

I'M GOING TO HAVE MY WAY WITH YOU, MY LITTLE PRETTY! AND IF YOU FAIL TO PLEASE ME, I'M GOING TO USE MY NASTY LITTLE MUTANT POWERS TO INCINERATE ALL YOUR BEST TOUPEES!

NEXT MORNING, IN ONE OF THE EIGHTY-SIX ROOMS OF THE NEKOBOH MANSION...

ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT IS ASSEMBLED, MA'AM, AND THE MIRRORS ARE ALL INSTALLED!

GREAT! THANKS! ZIGGY WILL SEE YOU OUT!

MOMENTS LATER...

HMMM... IT'S ONLY A HUNDRED POUNDS! *CAN* I...?

UH!

I'M GOING TO *DO* THIS...!

UHHUH!

LOCK-OUT LOCK-OUT LOCK-- YES!

THAT... IS THE FIRST STEP.. ON THE ROAD BACK...

...TO BEING ME!

THOOM

GOOD-BYE, FLAB! IF THE FATE OF ALL MUTANTS IS RIDING ON ME, I'VE GOT TO BE IN SHAPE!

WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET--BEFORE NOON, FOR CHRIS-SAKE?! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I'M GOING ON, ROMAN-- WITH OR WITHOUT YOU!

WITH YOU, I HOPE!

LATER...

THIS NEW SCRIPT IS BETTER, ROMAN, BUT IT'S STILL KIND OF HOKEY! I WANT THIS TO BE A TRUE PORTRAYAL OF THE LIVES AND PROBLEMS OF MUTANTS!

WE'RE NOT MAKING A DOCUMENTARY, ALI! LEAVE THE SEX IN, OKAY?

SURE--BUT I WANT THIS TO BE A FILM CLASSIC! IT'S GOT TO BE RIGHT!

I'D SETTLE FOR A CRUMMY MOVIE THAT RAKED IT IN AT THE BOX OFFICE!

HEY, ALI-- GET ZIG TO BRING ANOTHER BOTTLE OUT HERE, WILL YA? THIS ONE'S EMPTY!

DAYS LATER, OUTSIDE ALISON BLAIRE'S OWN RESIDENCE.

WHAT ON EARTH--?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PICKETING YOUR HOME, MISS BLAIRE! PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO GET PAST THEM!

THEY'RE NOT KEEPING ME OUT OF MY OWN HOUSE!

AND...

BETTER MOVE IT, LADY! THESE PEOPLE DO *NOT* LIKE YOU!

THEIR LOSS!

WATCH IT! I DON'T LIKE YOU MUCH, EITHER! FOR TWO CENTS I'D LOOK THE OTHER WAY AND LET 'EM AT YOU! SO *MOVE* IT!

KILL ALL MU

DOWN WITH DAZZ

DIE MUTIE

FILTHY MUTANT WITCH! YOU SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO WALK THE STREETS WITH NORMAL PEOPLE!

YOU'RE SCUM! WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND HERE!

MY KIND?

WHAT HAS MY KIND DONE TO YOU, LATELY?

ET OUT!

DEA

MUTANT FREE WORLD!

KILL

HMM... I NOTICE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAME OVER THE BARRICADE, FRIEND. YOU'RE VERY BRAVE! OR... DID YOU ASSUME THE REST OF THE MOB WAS RIGHT BEHIND YOU?

JUST WHAT IS IT YOU WANT? TO HIT ME?

I-I JUST DON'T WANT YOU IN OUR NEIGHBOR-HOOD!

ATE YOU

KILL THE DA

DIE MUT

GOOD MUT IS A DE ME!

WHY? I WON'T HURT YOU!

UM.. PROPERTY VALUES! WHAT ABOUT *THEM!* AND WE'VE GOT *CHILDREN!* HERE! WE'RE AFRAID FOR THEM!

WE'VE *SEEN* WHAT YOU CAN DO, LADY!

THEN *STAY* OUT OF MY WAY!

TRE

Los Angeles Times

"DAZZLER" THREATENS DEMONSTRATORS

HEAT WAVE RAISES WORRIES ON WATER

6 Hospitals, Public and Private, Will Share Services in Berkely

NEXT DAY, ON LOCATION...

AND THEN, THE CAR WILL GO BETWEEN THE CLIFFS, RIGHT?

RIGHT!

OKAY, PLACES EVERYBODY!

THIS SCENE MUST BE PERFECT, RENE! IT HAS TO LOOK *REAL!* OUR BIG ADVANTAGE IS THAT MY PART OF THE ACTION WILL BE REAL!

ROMAN, ARE YOU GOING TO WATCH ME DO THIS SCENE? IT'S THE FIRST BIG ACTION SEQUENCE, WHICH ESTABLISHES HOW POWERS LIKE MINE CAN SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY!

BUT, THIS SCENE'S NOT DANGEROUS, ROMAN!

I THINK I'LL JUST STAY HERE WHERE IT'S SAFE!

THE SCENE'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT!

I KNOW, I KNOW! HEY, KIDDO, I'M NOT ***SERIOUS***! I'M JUST TEASING! STILL, I THINK I'LL RELAX HERE AND SAVE MY ENERGY FOR ***MY*** BIG SCENE!

OH...

WELL, WE HAVE LOTS OF SECURITY PEOPLE HERE, AND--

YEAH... THE LOVE SCENE!. I CAN'T ***WAIT***, ROMAN!

RAWR!

SEE YOU SOON, DOLL!

OKAY, THIS IS IT! EVERYBODY READY?

CUE THE CAR!

ACTION!

NO! DON'T DRIVE THROUGH THERE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

RRUUMMBLE

ROCKSLIDE! I KNEW IT! HE'LL BE KILLED, UNLESS...

KRAK-A BOOM

MY LORD! I WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED!

GREAT! THAT'S A WRAP!

GOOD EVENING. TWO WEEKS AGO, FILMING BEGAN ON ROMAN NEKOBOH'S LATEST MOVIE, WHICH CO-STARS ONE ALISON BLAIRE, AN ADMITTED **MUTANT!** THE FILM IS SAID TO FOCUS ON THE **PROBLEMS** OF MUTANT-KIND! I SUPPOSE THERE MUST BE SOME-- ANY WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING HAS TO PUT UP WITH THAT ANNOYING, ITCHY, FLEECE!

PROTESTERS, BARELY RESTRAINED BY POLICE AND NEKOBOH'S OWN HIRED THUGS, HAVE CONSTANTLY PICKETED THE SHOOTING! THESE PEOPLE ARE AFRAID-- AND WE DON'T BLAME THEM!

MUTANTS ARE AN ENTIRELY NEW RACE, EACH MEMBER OF WHICH POSSESSES ABILITIES WHICH SEEM LIKE SCIENCE FICTION TO US NORMAL HUMANS! WE HAVE HEARD THAT THEY REFER TO THEMSELVES AS 'HOMO SUPERIOR'-- THE NEXT STEP ON THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER ABOVE HOMO SAPIENS! SOME MUTANTS HAVE MOUNTED BLATANT ATTACKS UPON HUMAN-KIND-- DEMONSTRATING TO MY SATISFACTION THAT THEY PLAN TO SUPPLANT US 'LOWER' CREATURES AS THE DOMINANT SPECIES ON THIS PLANET!

THE WORST THING IS THAT THESE... BEINGS, MAY LOOK LIKE YOU OR ME! THEY WALK AMONG US UNSUSPECTED! ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS... A NEIGHBOR, PERHAPS... OR, GOD FORBID, EVEN SOMEONE IN YOUR OWN FAMILY MAY BE QUITE CAPABLE OF READING YOUR THOUGHTS... OR LEVITATING INTO THE AIR... OR, LIKE ALISON BLAIRE, KILLING YOU WITH JUST A WAVE OF HER HAND!

WE HERE AT WKMC BELIEVE THAT THE MUTANT MENACE IS **REAL!** WE SUPPORT THE PROTESTERS! IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE ABOUT MUTANTS... IF WE HUMANS DO NOT TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO PROTECT OURSELVES-- THEN IT SHALL NOT BE THE **MEEK** WHO INHERIT THE EARTH... THAT'S OUR OPINION! WHAT'S YOURS?!

ON A DESERTED ISLAND, SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC...

HEY, ROMAN! DID YOU SEE THE TAPE OF THAT WKMC TV EDITORIAL? HOO-**EEEE!**

NO SWEAT, THOUGH, WHEN THIS FILM REACHES THE OLD SILVER SCREEN, IT'LL MAKE THE WHOLE COUNTRY CHANGE ITS TUNE!

YEAH... I GUESS... SURE!

ESPECIALLY **THIS** SCENE!

YEAH... UH... COULD YOU SEND SOMEBODY BACK TO THE TRAILER FOR ANOTHER BOTTLE AND SOME MORE SMOKES?

MEANWHILE...

I HOPE EVERYONE ELSE IS FAR ENOUGH AWAY TO BE SAFE, JUST IN CASE I CAN'T DO WHAT I THINK I CAN! ANY SECOND NOW...

THERE! THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES SET OFF A MINOR ERUPTION, JUST AS WE'D HOPED!

THIS MUST LOOK ABSOLUTELY *EERIE* -- ALL THIS VIOLENT UPHEAVAL HAPPENING IN UTTER *SILENCE* -- BECAUSE I'M NOT LETTING A WHISPER OF SOUND SLIP BY!

SUCH *POWER*! OH, MAN, IT'S -- IT'S UNBELIEVABLE HOW MUCH ENERGY I'M TAKING IN! AND I'M GOING TO NEED IT--

--IF I WANT TO SURVIVE!

SHE'S ZAPPING HUGE BOULDERS TO POWDER! LIKE -- *DISINTEGRATING* THEM!

AWESOME! IT'S SPECTACULAR BEYOND BELIEF!

IT'S SUBSIDING! THE ERUPTION'S SETTLING DOWN!

KEEP SHOOTING! GET EVERY SECOND!

MEANWHILE, IN LOS ANGELES...

STOP! STOP IT!!

YOU SHOULDN'T CARRY THIS MUTIE-LOVER'S TRASH, MISTER STORE-KEEPER!

NO NEKOBOH

YEAH! WE'LL CLEAN IT OUT FOR YA!

AND ELSEWHERE...

Wilshire

NO NO NEKOBOH!

NO NO NEKOBOH!

DON'T WALK

WEEKS LATER, AT THE NEKOBOH MANSION...

WHO GAVE YOU THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL TO MY BODY, ROMAN? HOW CAN YOU BE SO-SO WONDERFUL... EVEN WHEN YOUR MIND IS OBVIOUSLY A MILLION MILES AWAY?

SORRY, KID... I GUESS I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY MIND.

BEING THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD MUST BE AN AWFUL BURDEN! WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, IT'S THE FLAK WE'RE GETTING ABOUT THE MOVIE, ISN'T IT?

YEAH, I GUESS...

WELL, DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT IT! I HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL! *TRUST* ME!

CUTE... VERY CUTE! DEJA VU!

ROMAN, ALL KIDDING ASIDE - I REALLY, REALLY LOVE YOU! YOU KNOW THAT?

MAKE THAT THREE "*REALLYS*"-- AND WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL AND WALLET!

UH-HUH!

OH, HOW CAN YOU BE SO DOWN? OUR FILM IS NEARLY *FINISHED!* AND IT'S A LANDMARK! IT'S HISTORY IN THE MAKING! ALL BECAUSE YOU'RE A VISIONARY, YOU-- YOU MAGNIFICENT MAN!

JACKIE ROBINSON, MOVE OVER!

LATER, AT ALISON'S HOUSE...

MY GOD--!

GEEZ--! THE POLICE WEREN'T JOKING! WHOEVER BROKE IN HERE REALLY DID A NUMBER!

LOOKS LIKE THEY MISSED SMASHING MY OLD MIRROR, THOUGH!

I'D BETTER HAVE THE SECURITY DOUBLED AT MY PLACE!

IT'S GREAT TO HAVE SOMEBODY I RECOGNIZE LOOKING BACK AT ME AGAIN!

AREN'T WE ALL AGLOW, TODAY-- IN SPITE OF THIS STUPID VANDALISM? NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP US! RIGHT?

HELLO, ZIG? HIRE SOME MORE GUARDS! YES, I KNOW IT'S BEEN TOUGH TO GET ANYBODY! PAY *ANYTHING*! AND ZIG-- MAKE SURE WE CAN TRUST 'EM, OKAY?

AND, THE NEXT DAY, AS ROMAN NEKOBON'S ARMORED LIMOUSINE PULLS TO A HALT AT THE GATES OF BEALE STUDIOS...

ANOTHER MOB! SOMEBODY MUST'VE LEAKED THAT WE WERE COMING HERE FOR A PRIVATE SCREENING!

DON'T WORRY, ROMAN! YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH BLAIRE!

BLAIRE OUTZ

I ALMOST CAN'T BELIEVE IT--! WE'RE ABOUT TO SEE OUR MOVIE FOR THE FIRST TIME -- ALL FINISHED, EXCEPT FOR SOME POST-PRODUCTION!

WE'VE COME SO FAR, BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH! IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE, ISN'T IT, ROMAN?

I'LL TELL YOU ***AFTER*** I SEE IT, ALI! IT'LL HAVE TO BE ANOTHER ***CITIZEN KANE*** TO BE WORTH ALL THE GRIEF IT CAUSED!

INSIDE...

ROMAN, I--I KNOW IT'S BEEN HARD ON YOU -- THE BAD PRESS... THE MOBS...

LOOK, KID, I WASN'T COMPLAINING -- THAT IS, I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL BAD!

YOU'VE RISKED SO MUCH FOR THIS MOVIE--! I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL! I UNDERSTAND, HONEST!

THAT ISN'T IT, DOLL! LET'S JUST WATCH THE MOVIE, OKAY?

SOON...

BEAUTIFUL! ***BEAUTIFUL,*** ALI!

YOU MEAN I LOOK ALMOST AS GOOD AS YOU?

HUH? OH, YEAH... ALMOST! THE MOVIE, THOUGH -- IT'S ***GOOD!*** BETTER THAN GOOD! IT'S ***GREAT!***

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?

ARE YOU KIDDING? WE'VE GOT A HIT HERE! NO, WE'VE GOT A ***BLOCK-BUSTER!*** IT'S EVERYTHING WE'D HOPED IT WOULD BE! ***MORE!***

OH, ROMAN! I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

UH... AND FOR ME, TOO! FOR US! GOD, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!

ALI... HOW COULD I EVER... I MEAN...

I NEVER TOLD A WOMAN THIS BEFORE... OR AT LEAST I NEVER MEANT IT... BUT I MEAN IT NOW!

ALI, I LO--

CRASH

THE PROJECTOR! WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU AND THE MUTIE ARE DEAD MEAT, NEKOBOH!!

ROMAN! ***LOOK!***

THEY MUST'VE BROKEN IN! QUICK! OUT THE BACK!

UH-OH! THEY'RE OUT HERE, TOO!

THERE THEY ARE! GET 'EM!

WHERE ARE THE *GUARDS*? WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?!

NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

WH-WHAT ARE WE GOING TO *DO*?!

I DON'T KNOW! I'M NOT READY TO FIGHT THEM! I DON'T HAVE MUCH POWER IN RESERVE! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABSORBING ANY! I--I DIDN'T KNOW I'D NEED IT!

KCHAKK

CRASH!

GET HER FIRST--! BEFORE SHE CAN USE HER POWERS!

QUICK! THIS WAY!

THEY'RE TOO CLOSE! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT! UNLESS--

--UNLESS I SLOW THEM DOWN WITH A BLINDING FLASH!

EEYAHH!!

THEY'RE STILL COMING --AND I'M DRAINED!

THIS WAY! HURRY!

MAYBE WE CAN REACH THE CAR!

SCREENING ROOM 301

ROMAN, I HEAR THEM AGAIN! THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US!

IN HERE!

SOUND STAGE 2

IF ONLY I HAD AN ENERGY SOURCE! A RADIO--! ANYTHING!

SOME OF THEM HAVE *GUNS!* THEY COULD SHOOT US BEFORE I COULD SOAK UP ENOUGH OF THEIR OWN RACKET TO DRIVE THEM AWAY!

THERE'S A LOUD-SPEAKER ON THIS SOUND STAGE!

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK THIS STUFF, BUT MAYBE THESE SWITCHES TURN IT ON!

NO! THAT'S THE LIGHTS--! ROMAN--!

I'M TRYING, I'M *TRYING!*

THEY WENT IN THERE! COME ON! SHE CAN'T STOP ALL OF US!

WE'LL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF HER... *AND* NEKOBOH!!

TEAR THAT DOOR OPEN!

HEY! THAT LIGHT!!

SOUND STAGE 2

LOOKING FOR ME?

EEYOW!!

ARRGHH!!

THAT'S IT! SCREAM! MAKE *LOTS* OF NOISE...OR TRY TO ANYWAY!

SECONDS LATER...

A-ARE THEY GONE?

YES! I DON'T THINK THEY'LL BE BACK FOR A WHILE! WHY DON'T YOU HEAD HOME IN THE LIMO?

OKAY! AREN'T YOU COMING?

IN A WHILE! I WANT TO CHECK INTO SOMETHING HERE, FIRST!

LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE STUDIO MANAGER...

A-ALL-RIGHT, I *DID* REMOVE THE GUARDS -- BUT IT WAS FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY

MISTER, IT'S JUST LUCKY FOR YOU I'M NOT THE MONSTER YOU THINK I AM!

RRING

HELLO? YES, MISTER NEKOBOH, SHE'S HERE!

IOS INC.

ROMAN? WHAT IS IT? WHERE ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING *THERE*?!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME AS QUICKLY AS I CAN -- BUT WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SOUND --

ROMAN? *ROMAN*?! STRANGE! HE HUNG UP!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF *BEALE PRODUCTIONS*...

UM... HELLO.. I'M ALISON BLAIRE! I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET ROMAN NEKOBOH HERE!

I'M QUITE AWARE OF WHO AND *WHAT* YOU ARE! JUST STEP INTO MR. BEALE'S OFFICE!

SO... MISS BLAIRE! WE MEET AGAIN! WHAT A PLEASURE!

WHERE IS ROMAN?

HMM... RIGHT NOW, I'D IMAGINE HE'S *PACKING*! HE'LL BE LEAVING TOMORROW ON AN EXTENDED VACATION ABROAD -- FOLLOWED BY A WORLD CONCERT-TOUR!

ROMAN WOULDN'T GO AWAY WITHOUT TELLING ME!

ON THE CONTRARY, MISS BLAIRE! HE IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU IN ANY WAY EVER AGAIN, UNDER THE TERMS OF HIS NEW CONTRACT WITH BEALE PRODUCTIONS!

YOU'RE LYING!

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

OH, MY GOD!

H-HOW COULD HE?!

Roman Nekoboh

HOW COULD HE *NOT?* THAT CONTRACT WAS HIS LAST CHANCE TO SALVAGE HIS BADLY DAMAGED CAREER...HIS *LIFE!*

LET ME EXPLAIN! AS YOU KNOW, I WAS FINANCING YOUR ILL-FATED MOVIE! I NO LONGER CARE TO BE PARTY TO SUCH AN UNPOPULAR VENTURE--SO I'M PULLING THE PLUG, ESSENTIALLY! AS OF THIS AFTERNOON, OUR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP IS *TERMINATED!* ALL COPIES OF THE FILM WILL BE DESTROYED!

BUT... YOU CAN'T *DO* THAT! ROMAN HAS GUARANTEES--! ABSOLUTE CONTROL!

YOU POOR LITTLE IDIOT! ROMAN HAS NO POWER WHATSOEVER! I WAS PULLING HIS STRINGS ALL ALONG!

DO YOU REALLY THINK ROMAN HAS THE WIT TO HAVE SUSPECTED THAT YOU WERE A MUTANT? NO! BUT I DID, THOUGH! I ORDERED HIM TO FIND OUT FOR CERTAIN, WHICH HE DID ADMIRABLY!

THAT'S HIS ONLY TRUE GIFT-- DECEIVING WOMEN! STUPID ONES, ANYWAY-- WHOSE BUST MEASUREMENT EXCEEDS THEIR I.Q!

YOU *MUST* BE STUPID TO HAVE BELIEVED THAT ROMAN WOULD WILLINGLY JEOPARDIZE HIS CAREER BY REVEALING TO THE WORLD THAT HIS CO-STAR AND WHORE WAS A MUTANT!

WHY? WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS? JUST TO GET BACK AT ME--BECAUSE I TURNED YOU DOWN?

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF!

WHAT MY INSURANCE DOESN'T COVER IS DEDUCTIBLE! BESIDES, IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO ACQUIRE A VALUABLE PROPERTY LIKE ROMAN NEKOBOH!

BUT IT COST A FORTUNE TO MAKE OUR MOVIE! AND, NOW...

OH, IT'S TRUE THAT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORTH MUCH AT THE MOMENT-- BUT NOW THAT I *OWN* HIM, AND I'M CALLING THE SHOTS, I'M CERTAIN THAT HIS IMAGE CAN BE REPAIRED AND REJUVENATED!

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY--AT THIS POINT, NOBODY BUT ME WOULD GIVE HIM THE TIME OF DAY! I'M DOING HIM A BIG FAVOR! I'M *HELPING* HIM!

I *COULD* HELP YOU, TOO! YOU'RE A VERY TALENTED GIRL! I THINK I CAN EVEN SALVAGE *YOU*...

...PROVIDED YOU AGREE TO *MY* TERMS!

I DON'T WANT--

THIS IS THE LAST EXISTING PRINT OF YOUR MOVIE! I'VE SEEN IT! IT'S GOOD... *VERY* GOOD!

IN FACT, I'M WILLING TO GAMBLE THAT IF WE RELEASED IT, IT WOULD DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU THOUGHT IT MIGHT--HELP THE CAUSE OF MUTANTS EVERYWHERE... STEM THE INCREDIBLE TIDE OF PARANOIA...

...AND CATAPAULT YOU INTO INSTANT SUPERSTARDOM! YOU COULD BE THE BIGGEST FEMALE BOX-OFFICE ATTRACTION IN HISTORY!

AH, BUT IT *IS* RISKY! I'LL ONLY DO IT ON ONE CONDITION--THAT YOU SIGN THIS LITTLE CONTRACT! IT'S JUST LIKE ROMAN'S!

THE TERMS ARE A BIT *SEVERE* IN SOME RESPECTS--BUT WHAT DO YOU CARE? YOU'LL DO WELL ENOUGH! YOU'LL BE A STAR! YOU'LL HAVE FAME, GLAMOUR, AND ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE VERY WELL! BEST OF ALL, YOUR MOVIE WILL BE *SEEN* AROUND THE WORLD!

AND I--I WILL *OWN* YOU! SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO DO SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU AT THE HEALTH CLUB! I WANTED YOU FOR SEX, THEN --

--NOW IT'S STRICTLY BUSINESS!

LOOK UPON THIS AS A LAST CHANCE, MISS BLAIRE--FOR YOU... AND YOUR *RACE*! YOU DO WANT THIS FILM TO BE RELEASED, DON'T YOU?

SHALL I BURN THIS...? "OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO SWING ON A STAR...?" HMM?

AH! EXCELLENT! ONE SMALL STEP FOR A MUTANT...ONE GIANT STEP FOR MUTANT-KIND, EH? GOOD GIRL!

HA! YOU'RE SO ALTRUISTIC... SELF-SACRIFICING... TALENTED... BUILT LIKE A BRICK OUT-HOUSE, AND *MINE!*

WAIT A MINUTE--! THIS ISN'T--

No such an Egg!

RIGHT! AND SO EVEN *YOU* CAN UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE, LET ME EMPHASIZE IT--

--LIKE *THIS!*

WHAM!

OW!

THIS IS THE LAST EXISTING PRINT, HUH? WELL, MR. BEALE, IT BREAKS MY HEART TO DO THIS, BUT---

WHAT ARE YOU--?! *NO! NO!!*

THAT FILM'S WORTH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS!!

OH MY GOD!!

WAS WORTH...

GOODBYE, MR. POND-SCUM!

PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU!

♫ I'M STILL STANDIN' ♫ BETTER THAN I EVER DID ♫ LOOKIN' LIKE A ♪ TRUE SURVIVOR... ♪"

BOO!!

EEEEKK!!

"... FEELIN' LIKE A ♫ ♪ LITTLE KID!" ♪ ♫

OUTSIDE...

ALI! ALI!

SCREEEEEEECH!

DON'T GO AWAY I CAN EXPLAIN EVERY-THING BUT FIRST I GOTTA TEAR UP A CONTRACT!!

HEY! SLOW DOWN!

RELAX! I BURNED IT UP ALREADY! I *KNEW* YOU'D WANT ME TO! AND I TOLD YOU BEFORE -- YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS!

UH...OH... I... TH-THANKS!

LATER, AT THE NEKOBOH MANSION...

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE, ROMAN!

I WISH I'D BEEN THERE! BOY, IT'S GREAT TO BE RID OF THAT SCUM!

IT WAS HELL, ALI! I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT MYSELF INTO THAT!

ONE GOOD THING--! THE UP-FRONT MONEY FROM THE MOVIE PAID OFF MY DEBTS! I'M *EVEN* AGAIN!

SURE, MY CAREER'S A LITTLE SCREWED UP, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES IN SHOW BIZ -- YOU'RE RIDIN' HIGH IN APRIL ... SHOT DOWN IN MAY!

WHAT DO I CARE? I'M *ROMAN NEKOBOH*, SHOW BIZ LEGEND! I'LL BE BACK ON TOP IN JUNE! YOU'LL SEE!

WITHOUT A DOUBT, ROMAN -- SINCE I WON'T BE HOLDING YOU BACK ANYMORE!

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DON'T GET ME WRONG, ROMAN! I STILL LOVE YOU! BUT THE WAY THE WORLD IS RIGHT NOW, I'D JUST BE AN ANCHOR WEIGHING YOU DOWN! BESIDES, I WANT TO MAKE IT ON MY OWN -- BE-CAUSE I *DESERVE* TO -- NOT RIDING ANYBODY'S COATTAILS! YOU KNOW?

YES... I DO!

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!

AND I LOVE YOU, TOO, ALI! WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL...

OH, ROMAN!

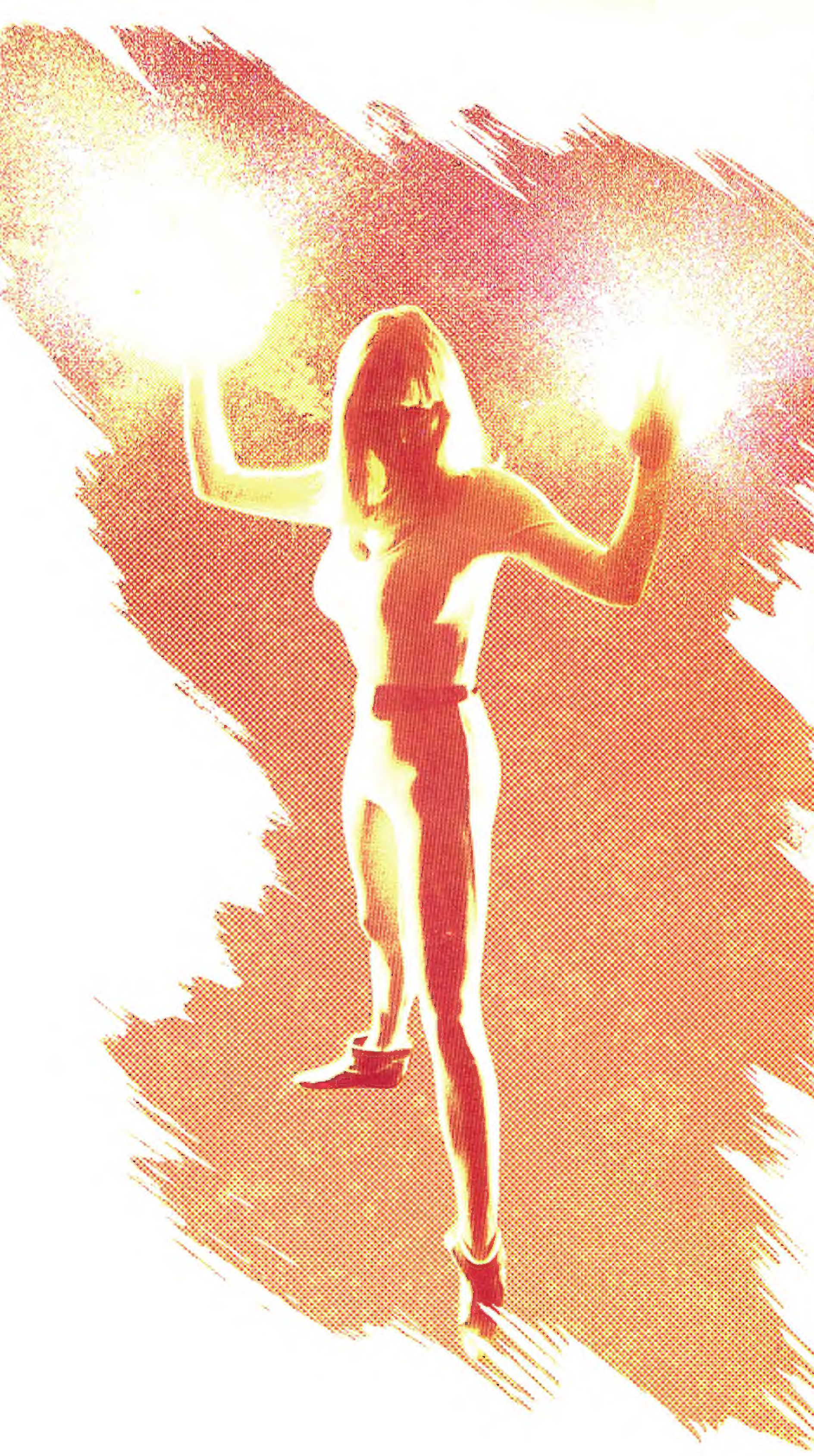
I HOPE IT ALL WORKS OUT FOR YOU, BABE-- CHECK THAT-- I *KNOW* IT WILL! I'LL BE SEEING YOUR NAME UP IN LIGHTS SOON!

AND I'LL BE SEEING YOURS AGAIN!

COUNT ON IT! SEE YOU THEN!

COUNT ON IT!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY, MISS ALISON BLAIRE!



Alison Blaire is a dreamer. Her dreams led her away from a promising law career toward the glow of the footlights, as the singing sensation named the *Dazzler*. But her talents range beyond her voice—she is also gifted with a spectacular mutant ability to convert *sound* into dazzling *light*—which she can use to thrill an audience, or wield as a powerful weapon. It is her blessing . . . and her secret *curse*.

Landing a leading role in a major motion picture, Alison is finally close to achieving the *stardom* she desires. But she must guard her secret mutant powers more closely than ever . . . or they will *destroy* her dreams, and much, much more!

What happens next will effect every living mutant—*forever!*

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